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THE SPECTATOR

Q-Lit Program Under Review

by Kate Moore '12
News Writer

When the class of 2014 matriculates two years from now, their orientation experience could be slightly different from current students': the quantitative literacy test may be abolished in favor of a new policy.

The Quantitative Literacy (Q-Lit) Program has been under review for several years, and in February 2007, a task force on quantitative reasoning suggested that the area be divided into three categories, with students required to take courses in two. This proposal was established prior to the new Strategic Plan, but was made available to members of the Committee on Academic Policy (CAP), which hopes to integrate related changes.

Guidelines instituted by the committee will increase the range of quantitative literacy to include a new aspect: symbolic reasoning. The new Quantitative and Symbolic Reasoning (QSR) requirement will include currently established Q-Lit courses, as well as courses in economics and geology. The symbolic rea

see ***Q-Lit***, *page 2*

PHOTO BY JULIO MONTERROSO '10

Students dig in at the Chocolate Tasting on Feb. 10. *See page 10 for full FebFest coverage.*

Hamilton #24 in Kiplinger.com's Best Valued Liberal Arts Colleges

Ranked behind five other NESCAC schools; Colgate

by Kara Labs '09
Senior Editor

Kiplinger.com, a financial advisory and business forecasting website released a list of the top 50 best valued liberal arts colleges in the United States. Hamilton came in at 24 on the list, behind Colgate (21) and Middlebury (16). Hamilton did beat out schools like Colby and Wesleyan, ranked 26 and 28 respectively. Pomona College in California is number one on the list, followed by Swarthmore in Pennsylvania.

The presidents of 20 liberal arts colleges, including Joan Hinde Stewart, signed a pact stating that they will not publicize the rankings that their schools receive. These presidents contend that the rankings mislead the public and that prospective students put too much stock in them. The *U.S. News and World Report* rankings are often cited as one such negative influence.

The college presidents have agreed to leave the rankings out of their new promotional materials, as they are mostly concerned with biases within the ranking systems. In the statement, they encouraged other colleges and universities across the country to look to improve how information about their institutions is disseminated.

Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Monica Inzer explained her position on the issue: "I'm of two minds on this topic. I'm not a huge fan of college rankings in general. Why use someone

see ***Kiplinger***, *page 3*

Gmail Switch Possible

by Amina Sibtain '11
News Writer

Hamilton College is currently researching a switch from the e-mail server SunJava to the increasingly popular *Gmail*. Two weeks ago, the E-mail Task Force met for the first time and discussed the practicality of the switch. They are now in the beta-testing stages. Vice President of Information Technology Dave Smallen, said if the college was to indeed switch to the *Gmail* server, users will have many added benefits, which are currently missing in SunJava.

If the switch does take place, the users will have a storage space of 7GB available; this is 14 times the space currently available to employees and up to 70 times more than the space currently available to students. When asked about his opinion regarding the switch, Shayan Adamjee '12 said, "Personally I already transfer my e-mails to *Gmail* because it holds more space and is easier to use. Keeping this in mind I think it is a great idea."

According to Smallen, Hamilton College is currently spending $60,000 annually in order to administer the SunJava system, a cost the College will

see ***Gmail***, *page 3*

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Visitors take in the Black Inventions Exhibit in the Kirner-Johnson Commons on Feb. 17.

"Black Inventions" Exhibits Innovation

by Kerry Q. Coughlin '11
News Writer

"The color of the skin is no way connected with strength of the mind or intellectual powers," states the website of the Museum of Black Inventions and Innovations. Hamilton students were able to experience this in full force when the Museum's traveling display, the Black Inventions Exhibit, came to the Kirner-Johnson building (KJ) this past Tuesday.

The Dean of Students Office sponsored the event. It was one of many events held in honor of Black History Month. "I hope the community is educated on the impact that Black inventors have had on our society as a whole, [and] that through the exhibit and as a community we honor and celebrate these black inventors as cherished and valued Americans," said Associate Dean of Students for Diversity and Accessibility Allen Harrison, Jr.

From the looks of the KJ atrium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, these goals were more than accomplished. Students passing through KJ on their way to class got a glance at the myriad of objects that, unbeknownst to many, were in

see ***Exhibit***, *page 2*

QLit Program Could Include Symbolic Reasoning

*from **Q-Lit**, page 1*

soning courses will encompass subjects such as philosophy, music, linguistics, anthropology, and theatre. Incoming members of the class of 2014, and all students thereafter, would be required to pass one QSR course. There would no longer be the option of a quantitative literacy exam, and no tutorial. However, the QSR classes have great breadth across the curriculum, and would thus be accessible to students, no matter what their academic interests.

According to Professor Nathaniel Strout, chair of CAP, the reason for the elimination of the quantitative literacy exam would be that it only test high school level math. The Q-Lit Center would still offer tutoring resources to students enrolled in QSR courses, but not as an alternative - as it does now - for those who do not pass the exam.

"The goal of the requirement is to make the college level experience of quantitative and symbolic reasoning important," said Strout.

90 percent of students take at least one designated Q-Lit course during their four years at Hamilton; if expanded to include symbolic reasoning courses, 95 percent of students would have taken what constituted a QSR course.

The committee does not foresee any enrollment problems, as there were 250 open spaces in potential QSR classes for 2008. These are mostly 100-level courses that can be completed during a student's first or second year. Since most students would end up taking a Q-Lit or symbolic reasoning class on their own, the committee concluded that a one-course requirement would be sufficient. This may change after the first few years the plan is in place.

"I think there need to be some requirements, and right now there are hardly any. This is a liberal arts school, which means you're supposed to take a broad range of courses. To loosen the requirements could pose a problem," said Patrick Landers '12.

Despite the high percentages of students enrolled in Q-Lit courses, the Strategic Plan announced the formation of a task force that would work with CAP to address "a decline in the number of students taking courses with a quantitative literacy component." Strout feels that the statement is misleading.

"What has changed is that fewer students are taking two science, mathematics, and/or computer science courses than was the case when distribution requirements meant that all students had to take two such courses." He emphasizes that the QSR requirement is not meant as a substitute for a science course, as evidenced by the inclusion of courses in the social sciences and the arts.

Some students objected to the idea of expanding the current Q-Lit. requirement. "[The committee] should either make Q-Lit. and symbolic reasoning requirements as two separate requirements, or don't change anything at all. Don't combine them," said Amanda Barnes '12.

The new requirement has not yet come to fruition. The proposal will be sent before the Academic Council on March 5. If the faculty votes in favor of the plan, potential QSR courses will have to be approved to fit the criteria.

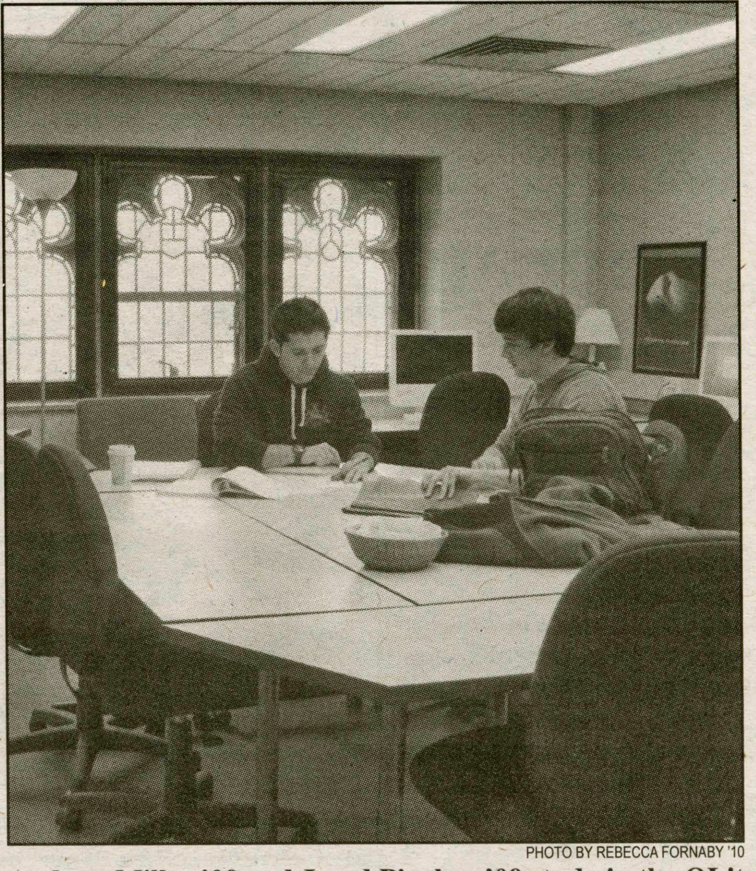

PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

Andrew Miller '09 and Jared Pienkos '09 study in the QLit Center in Christian A. Johnson Hall. Potential changes to the QLit requirement could affect the Center's purpose.

So as not to surprise members of the class of 2013 with a new requirement not currently detailed in the course catalogue, the QSR requirement would not be implemented until 2014.

Exhibit Highlights Creativity

Celebrates Black History Month by honoring inventors

*from **Exhibit**, page 1*

vented by black men and women. "There such a wide assortment of inventions here, from Play-Doh to burning efficiency enhancement fuel additive," commented Brooke Rayder '11.

Yes, that's right – toy designer Lamont Morris was responsible for the invention of the popular model compound Play-Doh, as well as four other patented toys during his time at Hasbro. Another inventor, scientist Lonnie G. Johnson designed the Super Soaker, which would bring in over $2 million in retail sales and is still a popular toy today, 15 years after it was patented.

Tables with dozens of poster boards presented further information about the lives of black inventors and samples of the objects that they invented. The Egyptians invented wigs, playing cards, combs, candles, and cough drops. The Bantus invented aspirin. African royalty were responsible for the creation of chess. More recently, blacks have invented items that are so much a part of our lives that often they go unnoticed – for example, bandages, microphones, and the dishwashing detergent, Cascade. Did you know that an African American invented modern-day ice cream? Augustus Jackson created today's method of manufacturing ice cream, in addition to creating several ice cream recipes himself.

Students were very impressed by black inventors represented in the exhibit, as well as the exhibit itself. "It is interesting to see the broad array of influence that blacks have had on science, culture, and our general everyday lives," said Kevin Graepel '11. "[This exhibit] enables you to recognize a lot of people that generally aren't as well known. It's very well put together," remarked James Beslity '11. "I found the presentation to be very engaging. It called attention to the fact that everyone contributes to progress," said Ngoc Nguyen '11.

If you were unable to experience this exceptional exhibit for yourself on Tuesday, you can find out more at http://www.blackinventions101.com.

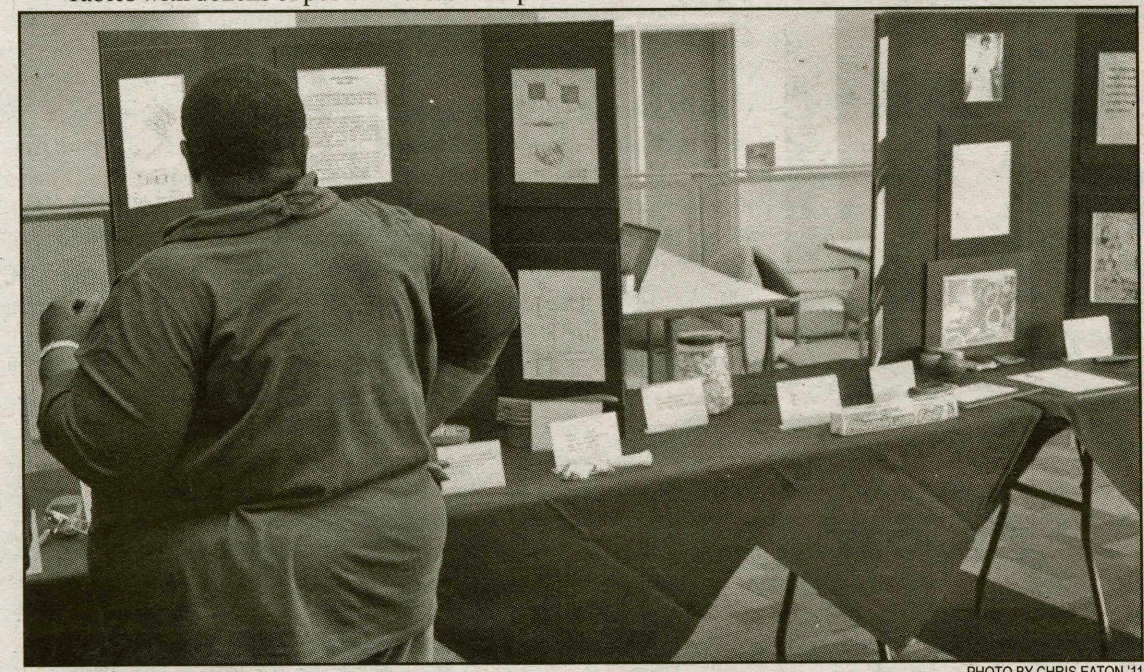

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The exhibit displayed inventions ranging from the cellular telephone to the guitar.

Student Assembly

Advising, Alcohol, Evaluations

by Ezra Rosenberg '10
News Editor
Student Assembly Representative

Advising Task Force:

SA debated the problems surrounding academic advising and goals the task force should attempt to achieve. The discussion focused on the problem the system presents for first years and sophomores. Recommendations for improving advising included: establishing a group of experienced students for younger students to reference outside of advisors, having advisor evaluations to hold them accountable, and holding a department run "major fair" to inform students about each major. Another significant problem for students has been advisor availability to sign off on course changes and major declarations. This is a difficult problem to address, but one possible solution is to have a "secondary advisor" to complete such tasks. Email mvinacur@hamilton.edu with any other suggestions or concerns about the issue.

Alcohol Coalition:

SA is working on a student-only town hall meeting to discuss drinking on campus. For now the goal is a simple one, to promote campus discussion and awareness of drinking issues. It has come to Student Assembly's attention that many students are unaware of the high number of alcohol-related medical transports and other alcohol related incidences that have occurred this year.

Online Course Evaluation Resolution:

The Central Council of the Student Assembly resolved that the deadline for the submission of online course evaluations be extended to the end of finals week, instead of the final day of classes. This will provide students an ample amount of time to thoroughly fill out their evaluations.

Funding:

$14,268.94 was allocated to 10 campus organizations. The Hamilton College Democrats received $5,170 to bring Andy Borowitz, the creator of The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air to campus for a stand-up comedy performance.

Personal Finance Workshop Finalized:

The Student Interest Committee has finalized a workshop by the Elias W. Leavenworth Professor of Economics, James Bradfield, to help students deal with real world problems such as making personal budgets, investing, paying back student loans, and long term financial considerations (i.e. buying a house, retirement). The workshop will occur Wednesday Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Science Center 3024.

Stimulus Boosts Student Aid

PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

Pres. Obama signs the Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Editor

With President Barack Obama signing the $787 billion stimulus package on Tuesday, colleges across the country will be feeling the windfall from an increase in funding for federal Pell Grants. Pell Grants are government subsidies that assist low-income students who have few other means of paying for college. Students can take this government aid and apply it to 5,400 different colleges across the United States, including private schools such as Hamilton.

The stimulus package has $15.6 billion set aside for Pell Grants. The maximum grant that an individual student can now receive is $5,350, a $500 increase from the previous maximum total, and next year, the maximum amount will rise to $5,500.

Pell Grants take a significant burden off of Hamilton's Financial Aid office. With these government funds helping to pay for college, Hamilton has extra money left over. They can either give aid to more students or award more money to students already receiving aid. A grant upwards of $5,000 might seem insignificant considering Hamilton's tuition this year is $48,410, but every single dollar counts for the Financial Aid office.

The Spectator was able to reach the Financial Aid office, but it did not respond with any additional information pertaining to how the maximum Pell Grant increase will affect Hamilton students who receive aid.

The United States Department of Education oversees the distribution of Pell Grants to the necessary recipients. The financial need is determined with a formula through a student's completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Factors that make a student eligible for a Pell Grant include their expected family contribution, the cost of tuition at the school of their choice, their status as a student (full-time vs. part-time), and the duration of their education.

In addition, the stimulus package includes a new measure called the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which covers the cost of textbooks and course materials for low to middle income college students.

In an interview with msnbc.com, Richard Hershman, the director of government relations for the National Association of College Stores (NACS), explained, "While textbooks and other course materials are both required and vital to a student's academic success, they are rarely covered by traditional financial aid." The initiative will allow students to write-off some, if not all, of their textbook purchases for the school year.

The tax credit is worth up to $2,500 and can stick with the student through all four years of college, with some additional students able receive a maximum of $1,000 in refund checks. Estimates from the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities show that approximately 295,000 New York families are now eligible for this refundable check.

Gmail Beta-testing in Progress

from Gmail, page 1

eliminate if Information Technology Services (ITS) implements *Gmail*'s free service.

Keith Willner '11, head of the Student Assembly Technology Committee said that he was initially hesitant about the switch because it might result in a change in the email addresses. However, after it was clarified that students will be allowed to maintain their original addresses, Willner became fully supportive of the idea.

If ITS makes the switch to *Gmail* the Hamilton community can take advantage of several added features, such as instant messaging, Google Documents, and e-mail threads, which are currently not available on SunJava. The switch will also allow users to synchronize their e-mail with wireless devices such as mobile phones.

Smallen could not yet comment on any possible disadvantages, since the test of the system is still in progress.

On the whole, the campus community seems to be in favor of the switch. Courtney Flint '11 said, "Definitely! A lot of people in my family use it and they all tell me that it's great."

Since the test is only in its preliminary stage, it is not possible to say whether or not the switch will actually take place. Even if the college does decide to implement the plan, the switch will not take place before approximately January 2010.

Although there is an obvious financial advantage to making the switch, the College is weighing a number of other factors, such as the reliability of *Gmail*'s server. Smallen said, "I have no strong opinion one way or the other. It will be a substantial saving for the college, but that is just one consideration."

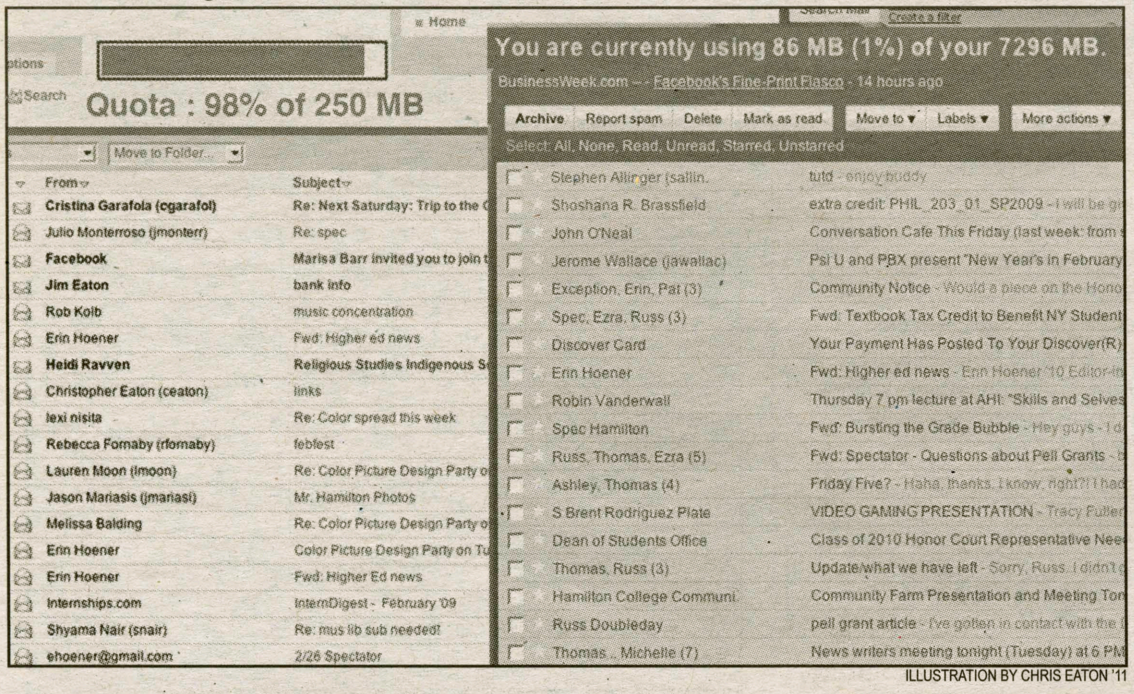

ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS EATON '11

PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

The College's position at #24 again raises the question of whether rankings affect Hamilton's prestige and image.

Kiplinger Rankings

from Kiplinger, page 1

else's measuring stick for what is important in a college? Figure out what is important to you and find colleges that fit best with your own selection criteria. However, I will admit that it is nice to be recognized for something positive and something we've worked hard at for many years."

The Kiplinger rankings are based on two factors, a quality rating of the education and a weighing of financial affordability. The quality measures include undergraduate enrollment, admission rate, the SAT or ACT test scores, student/faculty ratio, four year graduate rate and five year graduate rate. The financial measures are total cost of education, the cost of education after need-based aid, aid from grants, the cost after non-need-based aid, non-need-based aid and average debt. In this equation, quality accounts for two-thirds of the rating.

In addition to in-house research, Kiplinger.com based its best value rankings on data collected from Peterson's, an academic search provider that releases general college rankings every year. The categories are based on the Carnegie Classification system, which ranks colleges by number of degrees received and highest level of degree offered.

Comparatively, Hamilton has an 83 percent graduation rate versus Colgate's 86 percent. While Hamilton, Colgate and Middlebury all have comparable initial tuition costs. Hamilton costs less after need-based aid ($41,043 compared to approximately $50,000 at Colgate and Middlebury). Faculty-to-student ratios are also similar at all three schools, with approximately nine or ten students per faculty member.

"Especially in this economy, we're pleased to see that Hamilton is being recognized for something that we consider to be a core value," said Inzer. "That is, making sure that a Hamilton education is not just attractive, but also accessible and affordable for the most talented students in this country. President Stewart has said that 'the privilege of a Hamilton education should not just be reserved for the privileged' and we couldn't agree more."

The Spectator is looking for a student correspondent to attend and report on Monday Student Assembly Meetings. e-mail spec@hamilton.edu

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Globetrotters Grounded by Requirements

February is a hectic month for many sophomores at Hamilton; not only are they finally declaring their majors, but now is also the time that they must decide whether or not they can stand another two years straight on the Hill.

Each year, between 35 and 40 percent of Hamilton juniors choose to escape the winter wonderland – or at least Keystone - for a little adventure and an epic study abroad tale. Unfortunately, being able to study abroad is a little more complicated than hopping on the next flight to Sydney.

To obtain permission to study abroad at Hamilton, students must meet several requirements. Most students know that they must complete the quantitative literacy, writing intensive and physical education requirements, while remaining in good academic and social standing until the start date of their leave of absence. A requirement that catches most students by surprise is that they must a GPA of at least 82 – not cumulative – but rather, calculated from the two consecutive semesters immediately preceding the semester before leaving to study abroad. The addition of this final requirement is meant to provide some leeway for students who might not have adjusted as well to college academics and done as well in their first semester. However, the requirement has the opposite effect and in fact punishes students for the grades that they receive after that semester.

Under these restrictions, a student's cumulative GPA does not matter. A student may have a cumulative GPA of over 82, but if their GPA for the previous two semesters falls under that mark, they are not technically eligible to study abroad.

While we applaud the current rule's effort to forgive academic missteps that may occur in a student's first semester on campus, we ask why not extend this forgiveness to missteps that occur in the second or even third semesters? If a student is able to maintain a cumulative GPA greater than 82, they should not be punished for "one bad semester," just because it does not occur immediately upon arrival.

In addition to reviewing requirements across the academic fields, the College must also examine the current Study Abroad GPA requirements. Students should have the option to be able to fulfill this GPA requirement with either their "Study Abroad" GPA or their cumulative GPA.

Transcript Fever:

Fill Requests with Work-Study

It only makes sense that in today's economic climate people would be concerned about losing their jobs. It seems as though no profession is safe as both recent graduates and older alumni face the same fears of unemployment during this difficult recession. As a result of the recession, it also makes sense that individuals are preparing for the worst. In this case, that preparation requires looking for new jobs either as a precaution or due to necessity. Additionally, record high numbers of people are deciding to head back to school as a way of forestalling the need to look for employment. In order to apply for jobs or graduate programs, these individuals need their academic transcripts. Because of these factors, the Registrar's Office is experiencing requests for transcripts at a much higher rate than in the past and having trouble meeting the demands.

Many people assume a transcript request simply requires a Registrar worker to select their name from the archives and print the form. This is not the case: every transcript that the Registrar's Office prints has to be logged into databases so the College has a record of how many transcripts a person has requested and of the locations to which they were sent. This process makes the new influx of requests problematic, as there is currently only one part-time employee dedicated to completing this task. Because this employee only works half-days, the transcript requests have recently become backed-up and both alumni and current students have found their requests delayed at times when it is crucial to meet deadlines.

While the Registrar's Office currently requires 10 days to process transcripts, many students have found that the time it took to get their reports sent far exceeded the 10 day requirement, causing them to miss or almost miss deadlines. Additionally, alumni requesting transcripts need to receive them as soon as possible in order to stay competitive in today's job market. There is debate between students and alumni over who should receive preference in receiving their transcripts: college students applying to graduate programs or jobs with deadlines, as they currently do not have work, or alumni who may have families to support.

Regardless of preference, it seems clear that steps should be taken to ensure that these demands are met. The Registrar's Office should hire one or more student workers to cover the increasing amount of requests. Student workers could fill this demand; there are already student workers at the Dean of Students' Office and the President's Office who handle student's records on a daily basis and maintain confidentiality agreements. While the rest of the registrar staff is able to process transcripts as well, they have their own duties to fulfill. An additional student worker or workers would allow transcripts to be processed throughout the day rather than just during half-days and would be a cost-effective way for the College to meet increasing demands while providing employment for one of the many students looking for a Work-Study position.

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Face Off: What is the Role of the Media Board?

Allow Publications to Compete

by Evan Klondar '11
OPINION EDITOR

A handful of intimidating boards and organizations dominate the Hamilton scene—the Honor Court and the Judicial Board (more commonly known as the J-Board) are well-known. The Media Board is the ugly stepsister—both more intimidating and more pertinent to the lives of students but never really acknowledged in conversation. The Media Board needs to take steps to make it clear that it is an open, transparent and helpful organization.

As it stands, the Media Board is a gatekeeper to the daily and weekly publications that grace the dining halls, along with less regular publications which appear more or less at their own pace over the course of the semester. The Media Board has claimed that it strives to make publication open to everyone, but the requirements for new-publication approval are overly complex and discourage effective or interesting new publications from cropping up.

One of the demands the Media Board makes of new publications is for a unique "angle"—new projects need to fill a niche that no other work does. This, in principle, is a good idea; a dozen *Daily Bull* knock-offs is the last thing Hamilton needs. Similarly, Hamilton does not have the money to print five weekly newspapers; at a small school, resources are limited. In practice, however, Media Board restrictions have allowed a handful of publications to corner the market, and without competition, the quality of these publications has slipped.

The Daily Bull would be more coherent if it had breakfast-table competition; *The Duel Observer* would be funnier if another satire magazine challenged it. *The Spectator* was improved by a challenge from Dexter; it allowed *The Spectator* staff to re-focus and improve the paper's quality. Established publications on campus should not be allowed to corner the market. *Afternoon Delight* was approved in part to compete with *The Daily Bull*, but it was an uphill struggle. Would the Board allow any additional morning publications if the quality of both remains the same?

Of late, a number of publications have become complacent. There is no chance that *The Daily Bull*, in its current form, would be approved by the Media Board. This is a major problem that the Media Board needs to rectify—all current publications should meet basic standards. The simplest way to do this is to give publications competition. Make it rise to the challenge and produce more funny or highbrow issues.

It will be hard for the Media Board to swallow this pill. No current leader of a publication will want to open the market to competition and potentially cause the demise of their institution. Hamilton prides itself on its emphasis on strong writing. The best way to showcase student writing is a vibrant set of student publications. To achieve this goal, the Media Board should open itself up to more student input, allowing for any new publications with a dedicated and honest staff.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

There is much debate on campus as to which Media Board publications are worthwhile.

Allow Students to Have Their Say

by Laura Lee Smith '11
OPINION WRITER

Most students love to read publications like *The Spectator*, *The Hamiltonian*, and *The Duel Observer*, with a few exceptions here and there. However, some students question whether or not they really want to read—or even look at—other publications like *The Daily Bull* or *The Young Socialist*. It is the role of the Media Board to regulate these publications, and make sure they are both relevant and useful to students.

Sometimes I am shocked and appalled by the content of *The Young Socialist*, and I doubt that I am alone in these feelings. I imagine that many Hamilton students feel the same way when they are reading these types of publications.

While I respect free thinkers and the right of freedom of speech, I would rather not be subjected to this material.

One of the past issues of *The Young Socialist* claimed that President Obama shared communist ideas and even claimed he was associated with terrorists and other major world criminals. Even though these statements were completely ludicrous and false, I still believe whoever the "Young Socialists" are, they have the right to voice their opinion. I am just concerned that Hamilton students are losing their right to choose whether or not to be subjected to this slanderous material while in the comforts of their college setting. This not only applies to *The Young Socialist* but other publications like *The Daily Bull*, which has become more pointless and confusing with each successive issue.

The Daily Bull is a unique and quirky publication that finds its ways onto our dining table to provide students with a spot of smug humor here and there. However, recently it has taken an extremely strange direction. Now we get random collages of pictures of overtly sexual themes and often are subjected to jokes and humor that does not make sense to anyone except the person who wrote it.

The Daily Bull is not useless -- it allows students to request that lost and stolen items be returned, but it still has become more annoying over time. A once enjoyable and semi-respectable publication has taken a turn for bland and boring.

Shouldn't Hamilton students get a voice of whether the distribution of these materials should be aloud in our common social spaces? Either way, Hamilton students could actually learn something from *The Young Socialist*; students can learn to use their voices like they do. We should choose whether these potentially offensive publications should be allowed to grace our dining tables and infiltrate our supposedly safe spaces.

All of us have voices and valid opinions, and we cannot stay silent when we see a student using one-sided arguments to destroy beliefs that many of us hold. No one should have their voice silenced, but no one should use their voice in order to force their ideas and opinions upon others. The Media Board needs to find a fair medium between the two.

Thumbs up

Applewagon at the VT: Townies, it's time to lay down your darts, remove your vintage Jeff Gordon bomber jackets and accept Dave Moroney as your God.

Mr. Hamilton Pageant: I feel bad for the guys that left empty-handed. Any guy who exposes himself like that should at least get a "Boys Gone Wild!" tank top.

TKE Pirate Party: Unless you consider KSA girls to be treasure, you'll be out of luck.

Video game presentation by Tracy Fullerton: Hamilton's tools congregate together to live their ultimate wet dream - a chick that will talk to them.

Thumbs down

FIX THE F*#KING DOOR IN BEINECKE.

Hipsters: If I lose 50 pounds, wear thick-rimmed glasses and walk around like I'm trying to hold an electron between my butt cheeks, can I be a humongous douchebag just like you?

Burke library toilets: Did Yao Ming design these things? Because I feel like an infant reffing a tennis match up here.

Meditation e-mails: If you don't stop interrupting my zen-like procrastination, I'm going to start coming to your cruncher group therapy with conservative ideology and Slayer CDs.

Note to Commons: The only kind of meatloaf I like is in the Diner, and he sings.

Who cares?

Michael Ian Black: I haven't heard that much strained laughter since someone got bored enough to read *The Daily Bull* out loud. Now that I think about it, no *Daily Bull* = paper recycling goal accomplished.

Leave No Trace campaign in the library: We wouldn't want librarians getting plastic six-pack holders stuck in their gills or mistaking coke bottles for their natural prey. Besides, isn't it a little ironic to stress leaving no trace inside a giant, hideous cement structure built over a decimated Oneida Indian burial ground?

Girls studying in the gym: You look very studious balancing books and highlighters on the cardio machine, but I bet you don't let homework interfere with dinner time...

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

Disclaimer: The jokes submitted in this column are based on nothing and, for the most part, are not funny. Please read them with the understanding that you are not enriching yourself in any way. If you are easily offended, or a huge b*!ch, you should avoid this column at all costs.

Q-Lit Quandaries?

by Will Weisblatt '11
OPINION WRITER

When you click on the "Academics" tab on the top of the Hamilton webpage, you are treated to a blurb about the academic program. It discusses Hamilton's academic independence, and mentions a complete lack of distribution requirements or "general education" credits necessary for graduating. This curricular freedom is one of the central selling points of a Hamilton education.

However, this is actually a half-truth. Hamilton does not have distribution requirements, but that does not mean it is devoid of requirements altogether. Quite the opposite, in fact: students must pass three writing-intensive courses, the Quantitative Literacy (Q-Lit) requirement and physical education courses. However, of these three, it seems as though only the writing requirement is mentioned to potential students. While the physical education requirement is not difficult to complete, the Q-Lit credit is difficult for some students to satisfy.

Hamilton needs to be more open about the Quantitative Literacy requirement. When I applied to Hamilton, I had no idea that I would be required to take a specific class, test or tutorial in order to complete my collegiate career. Indeed, before I got to Hamilton, my friends enrolled at other schools would talk about what math classes they would have to "get out of the way." I was very excited that I would never be doing math again. I was much mistaken.

The problem with the Q-Lit requirement lies with the way this program is kept under wraps until students actually matriculate, as if someone is worried that a Q-Lit requirement will contradict the widespread belief that there is only a writing requirement. Indeed, the Q-Lit requirement is only revealed deep in the "Academic Regulations" manifest on the

see "Curric," page 7

Technically Speaking: Computing in the Cloud

by David Smallen
Vice President
Information Technology
Opinion Contributor
dsmallen@hamilton.edu

In my last article I suggested ways in which we could reduce Information Technology costs at Hamilton by changing the way we provide general purpose computing resources and printing. In this column I want to suggest that in some cases we can provide IT resources less expensively by thinking differently about the way we use the Internet. Providing access to computing resources by using the Internet is called computing in the cloud. This terminology comes from the visual representation of the Internet as a complex blob (the cloud).

We all use cloud computing. We search for things using Google. We purchase things from Amazon. We maintain personal e-mail accounts at services such as Google, HotMail, Yahoo and AOL. We share photos with others on Flickr, our videos on YouTube and our personal thoughts on Facebook. These are all examples of using Internet computing resources. In many of these cases the resources are provided for free, or minimal charge, based upon our willingness to accept advertising.

We now have a task force investigating providing college e-mail services in the cloud. Google is one organization that provides a suite of applications to colleges for free. These are known as Google Apps and include: e-mail, storage, web pages, calendaring, document and spreadsheet applications, instant messaging and more.

It currently costs Hamilton over $30,000 per year for hardware and software to provide these services ourselves, exclusive of the staff time devoted to keeping this critical service reliable. There would be no change in our e-mail addresses (e.g., dsmallen@hamilton.edu) and students would be able to keep their accounts for life – changing the address to something like jdoe@alumni.hamilton.edu when they graduate.

There would be no advertising during the time a person was employed or a student at Hamilton. The main motivation for Google is to get customers for life. The benefit for Hamilton is to save money and provide access to enhanced and integrated services. The first customers for this service were large universities who found that providing e-mail reliably was very difficult and expensive. More recently several small liberal arts colleges have moved their e-mail to Google or other similar organizations.

Gmail™ by Google™ BETA

READERSZONE.COM

Another way to look at cloud computing is that it is a form of outsourcing, that is, contracting with others to provide a service that we need rather than providing it ourselves. We already outsource the repair of campus computers (to VITEC Computer Repair) and the care of our telephone system (to TAG).

Our Internet connection is provided by Time-Warner, and the repair of our campus network electronics is contracted to Cisco. We have always considered outsourcing as a viable way to pay someone for a service that would be more costly to provide ourselves, or for which we could not provide timely, cost-effective alternatives. The main difference with Google Apps is that Google proposes to provide the service for free.

What other cloud resources are emerging? An intriguing one is access to High Performance Computing (HPC) resources. HPC resources include very fast computers, massive storage, specialized software, high speed networking and advanced expertise. We currently have HPC resources in our chemistry, physics and biology departments. In the future, we will consider purchasing HPC resources from other institutions and organizations (such as Amazon).

There are now companies that will run course management systems (e.g., Blackboard) on their computers and charge you an annual fee for doing so and providing support to faculty and students using the system. Consortia of colleges and universities are working out agreements to collectively support important applications, with one institution hosting the application and others providing the necessary expertise to answer questions.

Basically, any application that can be run on our own computers could potentially be housed by a company in the cloud with our access being provided through our Internet connection. There certainly are questions to be answered before using cloud resources such as: Will we have to increase the speed of our Internet connection if more of the things we use are located off-campus? How do we assure the reliability of these resources when they are not under our control?

Cloud resources provide additional ways in which we can think differently in these difficult financial times. It is crucial to use these technologies as we look to the future.

The verdict is in...

if you are considering a career in law, you should come to the

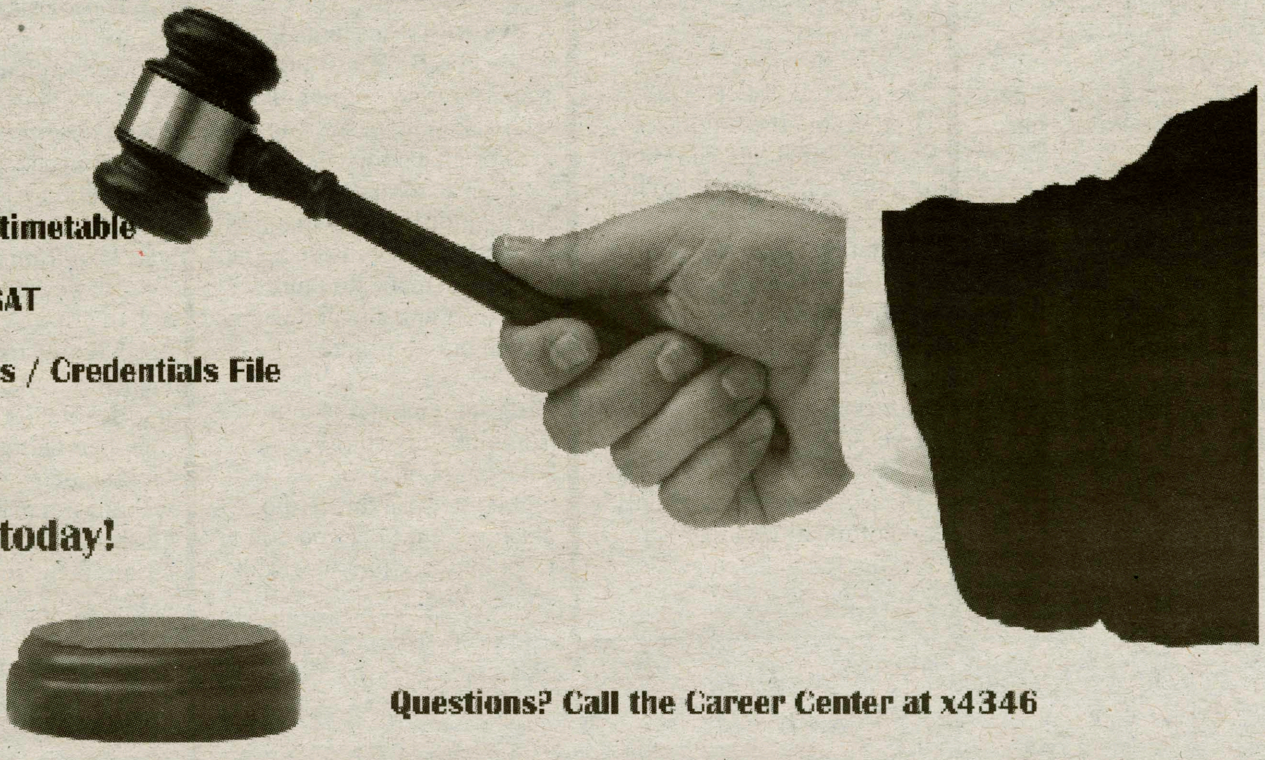
Pre-Law Informational Meeting

Tuesday, February 24th
7:30 pm
Science Center G041

Learn about:

Application strategies
Recommended application timetable
Strategies for taking the LSAT
Letters of recommendations / Credentials File
and much more!

sign up on *HamNET* today!



Questions? Call the Career Center at x4346

A "Curric" Fix

*from **Q-lit**, page 5*

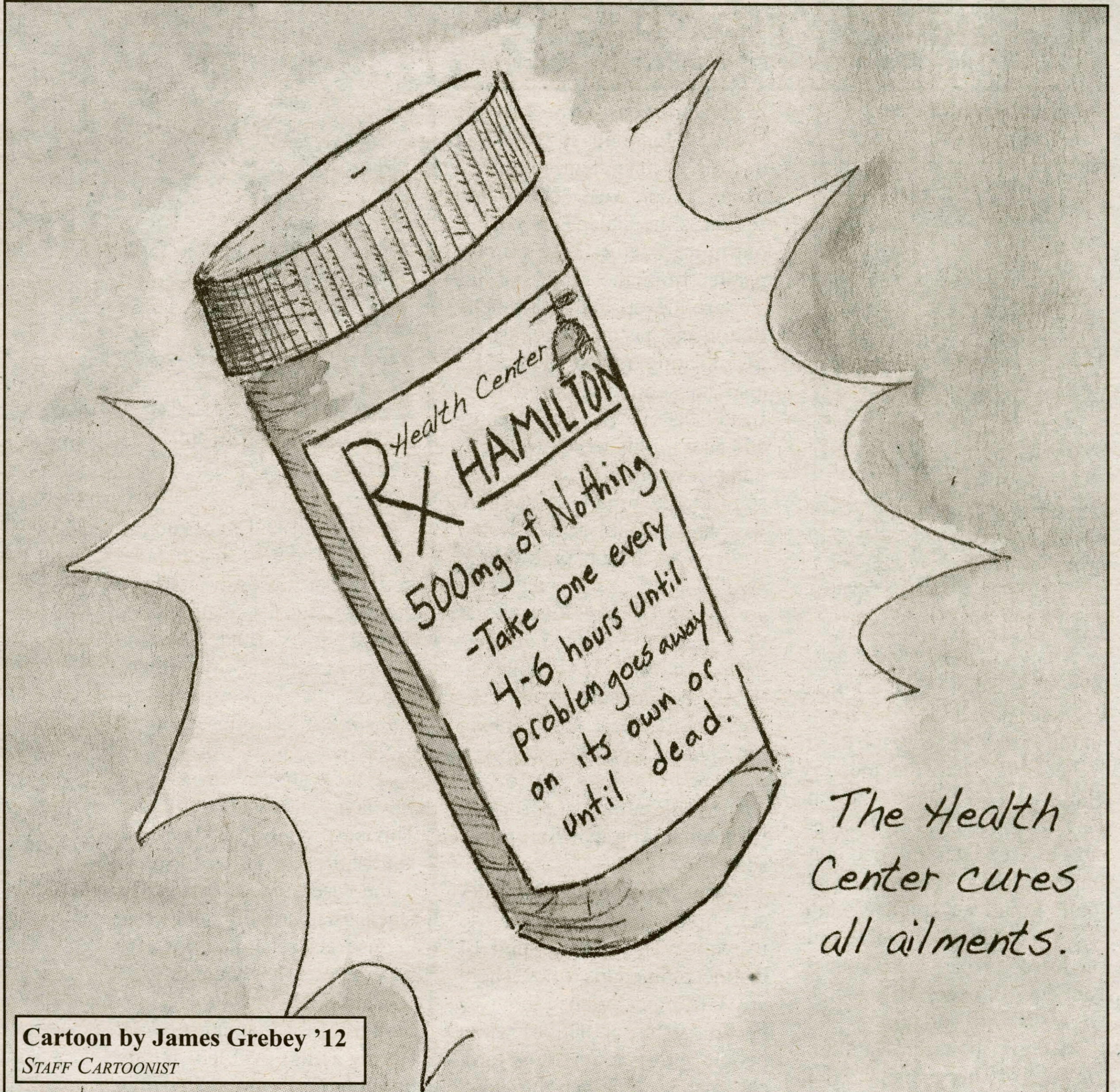
Hamilton website, far from the cursory glances of prospective students and parents; it reads like the fine print on a cell phone bill.

The administration has considered instating a public speaking requirement in lieu of the Q-Lit requirement. This program would be a more popular sell to prospective students; gaining presentation skills has clear utility in the workforce. Furthermore, Hamilton emphasizes both writing and public speaking as pillars of the curriculum. Replacing Q-Lit with public speaking would reflect well and signal that the College is serious about meeting its goals.

Starting with the class of 2014, the College could establish guidelines for "speaking-intensive" courses. These courses would require a presentation, speech or some other form of communication exercise to improve students' rhetorical abilities. Additionally, they would provide useful skills in the job market. Many classes already fit this description -- the shift would not be a difficult one.

The Q-Lit program fulfills a small yet important intellectual purpose in our academic experience. However, I feel that the program's existence is intentionally downplayed in order to maintain the school's reputation for a having particularly non-invasive academic policy. In order to rectify this, I think that the school must at least make the requirements as clear to prospective students as they are to recently matriculated students.

A better solution to this problem would be going ahead with the new public speaking requirement. It is a much better fit with the vision of the College, both today and into the future. It is imperative for Hamilton to fix a program that is out of step with most other aspects of the educational experience.



Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

"Friends" Exhibit Speaking to a Silent Crowd

by Allison Eck '12
Opinion Editor

"One day. One wrong turn." These words command attention. In college, students treat each day as if it is as ordinary as any other, and where teenagers go about their business assuming they will be able to walk new paths and speak new words tomorrow, a wake-up call is sometimes necessary. The nonchalant excuse that "it won't happen to me" is a now a thing of the past.

The Blood Fitness Center has been home to a traveling display since Jan. 20. The "Friends" exhibit concerns four college students who were killed in a tragic car accident at Colgate University in Nov. 2000. The victims included three girls and a boy – all killed by the same drunk driver.

The Louis Henry Morgan Institute of SUNYIT was the major proponent of the display and worked with New York State's STOP-DWI Foundation and Union College to make this awareness campaign possible. One of the unique aspects of the project is its ability to convey the reality of the crash by incorporating acutely personal accounts and belongings.

According to the exhibition's website, "the main purpose of the exhibition is to make college-age students aware of how quickly the lives of those involved in DWI tragedies, as well as those of families and friends of the victims, can change."

This effort is obviously a worthy cause. To pierce the heart with such painful reality should help college students make better choices when it comes to drinking.

What confuses me is the location of the display. It currently sits in the empty Juice Bar – granted, when it first arrived, the Juice Bar was still in business – unseen by a majority of students. In fact, out of the past few times I have been in the Blood Fitness Center, I have only noticed it once.

Wouldn't it be better off somewhere else, where more students congregate? Its message is powerful and deserves a voice.

Dave Thompson, director of the Blood Fitness Center and of Campus Wellness, said that the display needed to be in a safe place, especially because it contains items that belonged to the victims.

"In previous years, Hamilton hasn't agreed to bring in the display because they didn't feel like there would be a particular secure place to put it," he said. Thompson assures that hundreds of people have seen it, regardless of whether or not it is in a prime spot.

In addition, he explained that although the exhibit may appear to be poorly advertised, "it has been covered by both local TV stations, the Syracuse paper, and *The Spectator*."

Do students really tune into any of these media outlets besides *The Spectator*? Those who watch the local news may have heard of the display, but it definitely has not succeeded at getting Hamilton students to become interested in its aim. Now that the Juice Bar is closed, it is essential that it be relocated elsewhere. Perhaps the Kirner-Johnson Building or Science Center would be appropriate. Thompson suggested that if it returns in the future, the renovated ELS might be another good place to put it.

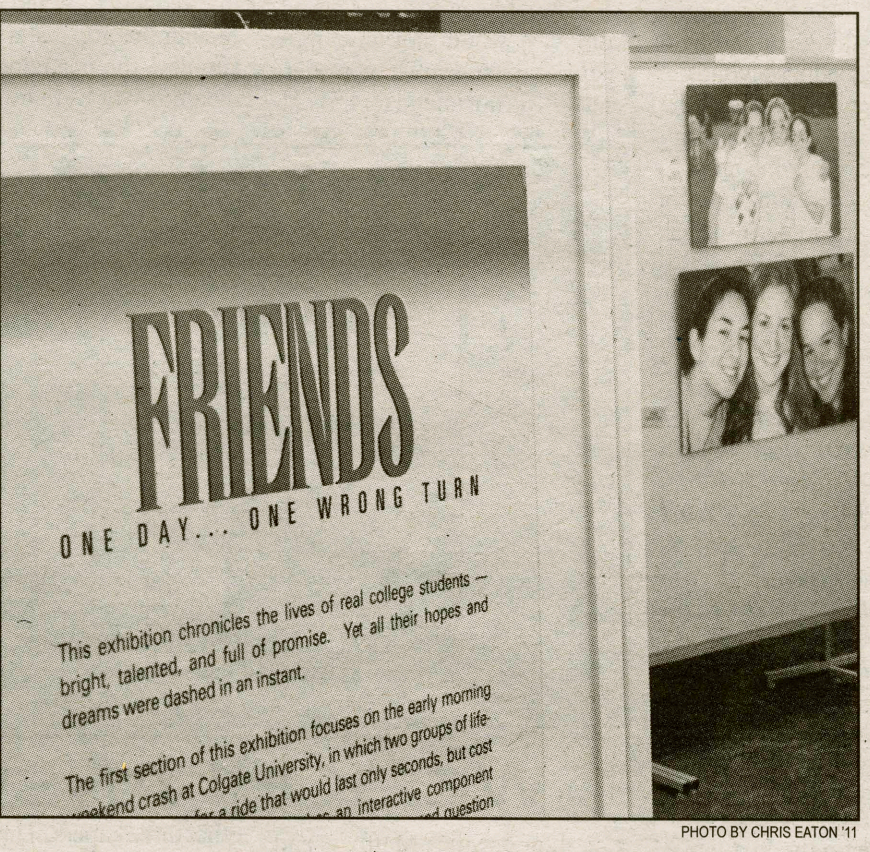


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

The "Friends" exhibit is well-concealed in the Fitness Center.

The issue revolves around security. However, in a case like this, the benefits of having such an educational display on campus – a display that affects students' thoughts regarding a popular weekend activity – outweigh the costs of safety. There must be a way to protect the exhibit even in the most well-traveled areas of campus. The argument that the abandoned Juice Bar is the only sufficiently secure spot is weak and misleading.

Furthermore, students should have the integrity not to rob or vandalize such an asset to the campus community. The administration needs to have faith that Hamilton students would not deface such a poignant and personal message.

The bottom line is that the "Friends" display should have a secure home elsewhere on campus, and we should not allow this to be a difficult task to accomplish. The exhibit is here until the end of the month, and we should make it more visible while it remains here.

"The argument that the abandoned Juice Bar is the only sufficiently secure spot is weak and misleading."

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

by Nico Kernan '10
FEATURES WRITER

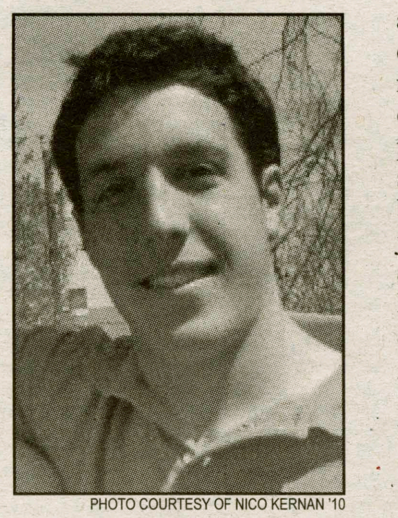


PHOTO COURTESY OF NICO KERNAN '10

Long ago (in the distant early '80s), my dad, a Hamilton grad who had spent a lot of his life in central New York, got a job down in Ecuador. There he met my mom, a lady from Quito. They got married, had me and my brother, and 26 years later, my dad continues to live in the same small South American country while I go to the same college he did. The lesson is that where you are from doesn't necessarily dictate where you will end up.

So now, being in Hamilton and far from my homeland, but (luckily) residing in my dad's, I want to illustrate a little of what Ecuador is like. It's hard to know where to begin but I won't start with facts. You can go to Wikipedia for that.

Ecuador is the man on the speed bump selling 20 bananas for a dollar. It's the old lady with a feather in her hat herding her sheep home in the afternoon. It's little boys riding sturdy horses home from the bakery as their ponchos flail behind them. It is the sun setting between two enormous snow-peaked mountains. Ecuador is also the beggars on the streets of Quito coming up to your car window with hands clasped as if praying. It is a foreign debt that will never be paid. It is Colombians, displaced by their civil war, juggling in the plazas for pennies. It is dirty money lubricating a fraudulent government. A government whose engine runs on the petroleum brutally extracted from some of the most biodiverse rainforests in the world.

Geographically, Ecuador is composed of four main regions. The Pacific coast to the East, the Andean Mountains further West, and the Amazonian rainforest even further west. The fourth region is the Galapagos Islands out in the Pacific. Your average person from the coast has his shirt rolled up above his belly button and has probably just enjoyed eating a fried banana. He also has copper-colored skin. Lastly, he talks in a loud manner and as if all his words were one gigantic word. Your average person from the mountains is short, with brown skin, dark hair and darker eyes. Mountain dwellers also have a large propensity to consume great quantities of fried pork meat, and at one point has desired to own a Toyota pickup. People in Galapagos are like people from the coast and people in the Amazon tend to have moved in there from the Andes or the Coast (unless they are from an indigenous tribe, which are rather scant).

You must realize these descriptions are strangely close to reality. There are around 14 distinct indigenous tribes. There are Afro-Ecuadorians (about 10 percent of the population), white people (quite a few of those too), and many ethnicities that have been born from the mix of these three. So in reality, saying that that almost everyone on the coast loves fried bananas and almost everyone in the mountains loves fried pork is about as far as you can get to being accurate as far as describing race in Ecuador.

For a short article I have run out of space to keep writing. I guess the best thing you can do to get to know Ecuador (beyond the previously mentioned Wikipedia article) is to visit it. It's beautiful. If you are ever planning a trip to Ecuador and want some info, or if you just want some info, feel free to contact me at nkernan. If you are not planning a trip, you should be.

"From Where I Sit" is the ESOL column that represents the nonnative English speaker's point of view on his or her experience in America. If you have a "From Where I Sit" story that you would like to share, please e-mail rfreire.

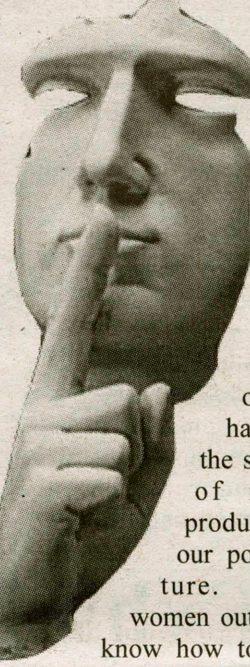
by Johanna Pajak '09
FEATURES COLUMNIST

Orgasm! Did I get your attention? There is this popular notion that sex is primarily a build-up, ideally ending in a mutual climax. But let's not kid ourselves: is this always the way it plays out? While the female orgasm is most often depicted as the more elusive form of climax, there are times when men can have just as much difficulty. This is especially true when there is alcohol involved, as it so often is the case around these parts. One particular individual wrote in this week regarding this very experience. He enquired:

Sometimes, I just can't come. It's not a huge problem, it only happens every once in a while, but girls seem to get kind of freaked out when I tell them that they should just give up. How do I avoid this uncomfortable situation?

- Lacking Ejaculation

Let me start by saying that had it not been for your pseudonym, it would not have been safe to assume that you were male. I do not intend for this column to take on a heteronormative tone. So, in the future, please be as clear as possible. That being said, I do get the impression that you're male because of your assumed name and the fact

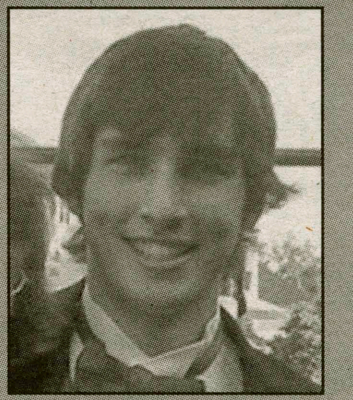


that the fake female orgasm has been the subject of many products of our pop-culture. Most women out there know how to fake an orgasm and have put that knowledge to use at least once, sorry guys.

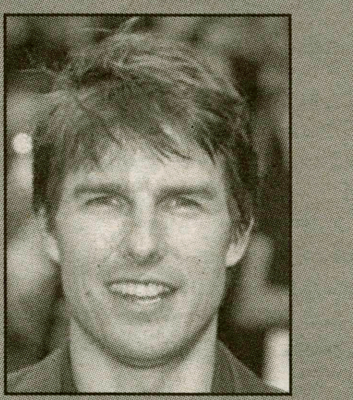
It's a lesser known fact that men can fake orgasms too. This is most easily done when wearing a condom. When you get the feeling that it's just a lost cause, simulate the behaviors that you would if you were truly about to climax. There's a lot of information out there on exactly what one should do, but if you've had an orgasm before, this should be pretty obvious. You might want to take some mental notes next time you have a real orgasm in order to improve the theatrics of your fake-o. Once you feel like you've put on enough of a show, discretely pull-out and hide your empty condom in the trash can. Make sure to put it under other garbage. If you're in her room, you might want to slip out to the bathroom and throw it away there, though it's pretty unlikely that she'll be inspecting the condom for semen in the morning. If you suspect that your lady would, in fact, dig up your used condom and check for fluids, you might want to rethink your involvement with her in the first place. Thus, as long as your woman friend is not f-ing crazy, faking an orgasm can be as easy as playing hide and go-seek, but without the go-seek.

Please send your thoughts to: specbetweenthesheets@gmail.com. Names will be confidential, advice will be practical, and humor will be plentiful.

Separated at Birth?



Andy Steele '10



Tom Cruise

Got ideas? Send look-a-likes to LMOON

LOGIC PUZZLE WEEK #4 ANSWERS

The Puzzle:

In our last puzzle, you were asked to determine Professor Inscrutable's grading scheme for three students: Amie, Matthew, and Sven. All three students received different grades on each of several different papers. The best of the three papers got p points, the second-best got q points, and the third-best got r points. At the end of the term, Amie had earned 22 points, and Matthew and Sven each had 9 points. Matthew had the best grade on the first paper. You were asked:

1. How many papers were there?
2. What are the values of p, q, and r?
3. Who had the second-best grade on the second paper?

The Solution:

The total number of points awarded was 40. So, n(p + q + r) = 40, where n is the number of papers. p + q + r has to be at least 1 + 2 + 3 = 6, so n must be 1, 2, 4, or 5. Since Matthew had the best grade on the first paper, we know that p must be less than 9. If there were only one or two papers, then Amie would not be able to collect her 22 points. So, n must be 4 or 5.

Assume n is 4. Then, p + q + r = 10. Thus, p must be at most 7. Since Amie earned 22 points in four papers, p must be at least 6. If p were 7, Matthew could not get 9 points, even if he received the fewest points on each of the other three papers. Thus, p would have to be 6, r would have to be 1, and q would have to be 3. But then there would be no way for Amie to collect 22 points. So, n must be 5 and p + q + r = 8. Since Amie earned 22 points on five papers, p must be at least 5, which entails that p=5, q=2, and r=1. Thus, Matthew must have gotten the lowest grade on all papers except the first. The only way for Amie to earn 22 points would be for her to get the most points on every paper other than the first, and the second-best grade on the first assignment. Thus, Sven must have had the second-best grade on all papers other than the first, including the second.

Past puzzles and solutions, are available, as always, on our website: http://www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm

Look for our next puzzle in the Mar. 6 edition of *The Spectator*!

Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

Sam Reisen '09

PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM REISEN '09

Age: *Old enough to party*
Eye color: *Baby blue*
Height: *6 ft with the hair*
Sign: *Upside down triangle*
Hometown: *Maplewood, NJ*
Major: *Women's Studies*
Turn Ons: *Political Activism*
Turn Offs: *Tire Slashing*

If you were a Hamilton College dorm which would you be and why?
- The Glen House
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
- Amy Winehouse and Tiny Tim
If you were god, what would be the first thing you'd do to the world?
- Legalize it.
What's the first word you just thought of?
-Vapobingers
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
-Sobriety, Roflwaffles
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
-If not now, then when?
What movie genre best describes you?
-Action; I did all that shit last summer
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
-Smoke?/ My what lovely whiskers you have
If you were a cold cut, which would you be and why?
-Campany's Brand Crogan Bologna
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
-Phelpsian Lungs.
If you were any Hamilton social space what would it be and why?
-Is the Glen a social space?
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?
- DU-They're Animals! They're always causing a ruckus- They just need to chill, son.
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why?
-DU
What would you say is your most attractive quality?
-My beautiful blue eyes, my hugs and kisses, and my snake
What is your favorite physical feature?
-The King Cobra, or my broad chest
If you could trade jobs with anyone at Hamilton for a day what would it be?
-Chad LaLiberte, or the MILF Hunter from Physical Plant
If you could break one rule at Hamilton for a day and get away with it which would you choose?
-I would triple major
What accessory best defines you?
-Diapers and Swimmies
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs up?
-Magner's Cider- Dude, it's so good!
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs down?
-Commons, no more pomegranates? WTF!?
Who would you say is your campus crush?
-Wenxi Li
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
-Dude, they all love me LOL

Katya Adair '10

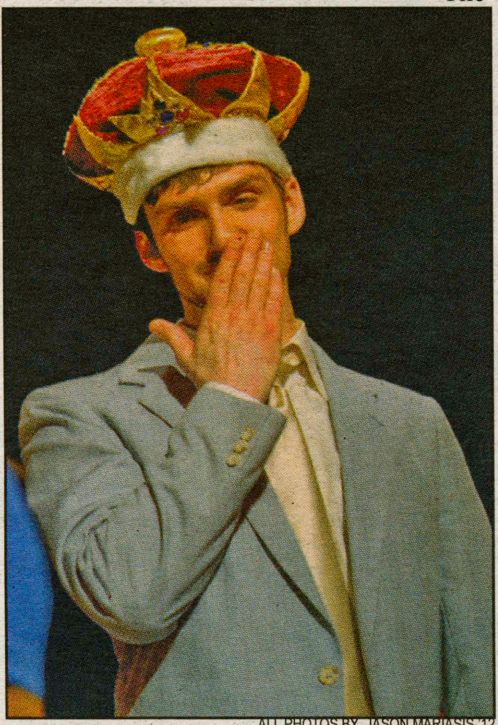
PHOTO COURTESY OF KATYA ADAIR '10

Age: *20*
Height: *5'7"*
Sign: *Gemini*
Hometown: *Kinnelon, NEW JERSEY*
Major: *Art History*
Turn on: *Creative people: if you can write, play music or make art I'm down.*
Turn off: *Turn off people with bad attitudes or that lack confidence*

If you were a Hamilton College dorm which would you be and why?
-Having lived in Babbitt for three years, I'll choose it by default.
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians which would you pick and why?
-If Gregg Gillis and Mickey Avalon got together, I think I would be their love child.
What's the first word you just thought of?
-Stupid.
If you had to create a new points system what would be the #1 offense?
-Crowding on the sushi line.
What advertising slogan best describes your life?
-Almond Joy says it's pretty well-- "sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't."
If you could create a holiday what/when would it be?
-International day of love—not to be mistaken with Valentine's Day. It would be in August, because it's only appropriate with summer lovin'.
What movie genre best describes you?
-Wes Anderson is a genre in of himself.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you?
-"Wanna see my room? Come to my room."
If you were a Hamilton major which would you be and why?
-Art majors are lovers.
If you won an award at an awards show what would it be for?
-Best 3-seat on campus.
If you could have any super power what would it be and why?
-If I could read minds, that would make my life a lot easier.
If you were any Hamilton social space what would it be and why?
-ELS basement is a magical place.
If you could get rid of one group on campus what would it be and why?
-Maybe KSA because I live in their suite.
If you could join one group on campus what would it be and why?
-The Brothers, for obvious reasons.
What is your favorite physical feature?
-I'm a personal fan of the sex bones.
If you could break one rule at Hamilton for a day and get away with it which would you choose?
-Keep a keg in my room, and swim in the water feature.
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs up?
-The snow fort.
What thing at Hamilton would you give a thumbs down?
-Steve Allinger.
Who would you say is your campus crush?
-Tine Raia, fo' lyfe.
Who would you say is your faculty crush?
-Hahahah.
What's the weirdest thing currently in your room?
-Lily Ericsson.

Hamilton Hunks Vie To Be Crowned King of the Hill

by Lily Gilespie '12
Features Writer

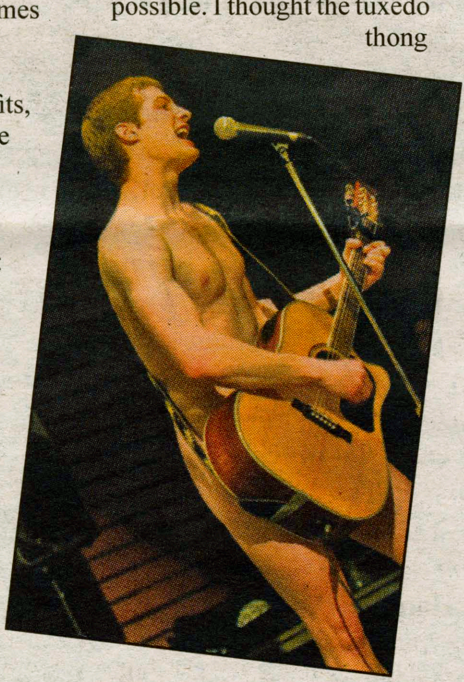


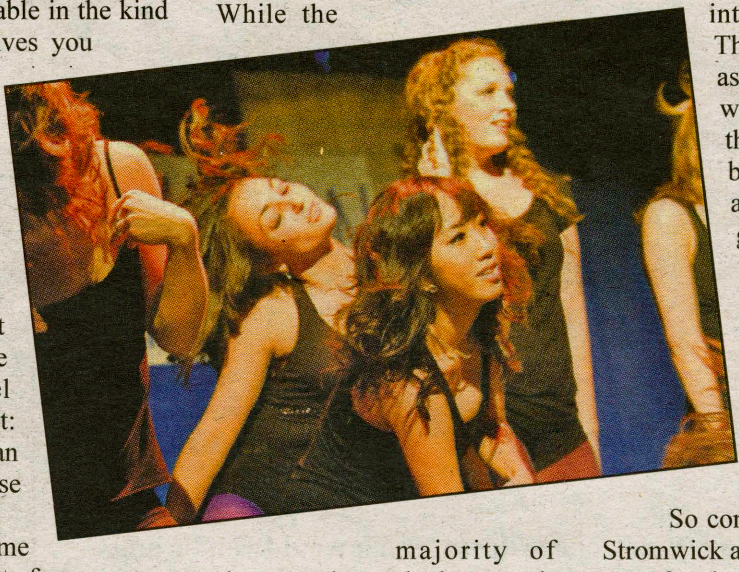
ALL PHOTOS BY JASON MARIASIS '12

Mr. Hamilton 2009: Jesse Stromwick '09

It is hard to know where to begin when it comes to Mr. Hamilton. Should I begin with the on-stage shenanigans, the wild outfits, the ludicrous stories, or the awesome dance moves? One thing I can say is that it was a wild night! It was a highly anticipated event: people were lining up before the doors opened and the Annex was fully packed a good 15 minutes before the show had even begun. The pageant was organized by students supporting the charity *One Heart with Africa*, which seeks to promote development in African nations through various education, water, health and cultural projects.

The evening opened not with gentlemen but with the ladies of the Dance Team. They were introduced by the emcees for the evening, Francesca Villa '10 and Andy Steele '10, who provided their own form of entertainment to fill the spaces in the evening's program. The actual pageant kicked off with an introduction of the contestants, who set the tone for the evening with model walks down the aisle, muscle flexes and very creative outfits. The swimsuit portion followed and I can now say that I have seen more of some of these gentlemen than I had ever thought possible. I thought the tuxedo thong on two of the contestants was particularly memorable, although memorable in the kind of way that gives you nightmares. Other gentlemen chose to pursue a more covered look, such as the full body wetsuit or the mermaid outfit - but hey, give Kevin Graepel '11 some credit: it takes a real man to wear turquoise sequins.





Up next came an essential part of any pageant: the talent competition. You know you're in college when Tom Gillespie '09 is allowed to down a beer as his talent, but I guess when you're trapped in the boonies, you have to find some hobby to keep you occupied. I would have to say that Mike Schmidt '10 won the vote of any girl/Backstreet Boys fan in the audience with his rendition of "I Want It That Way," he bravely sang dressed, (or not dressed, I should say) as the Naked Cowboy, a feature of New York's Times Square for those who missed the reference. Other highlights of the talent portion were a performance by Jesse Stromwick '09, featuring Bollywood dancing and flips, as well as a stellar twirling light show by Stephen Michel '10. Some of the boys chose to recruit the help of others, as did Rey Davis '09 in his hilarious reenactment of the car scene from *Stepbrothers*. The lone freshman of the bunch, Andrew Taub enlisted the aid of his fellow Buffers, who backed him in a preview of the next day's Buffergrams with "Signed, Sealed, Delivered." While the majority of these gentlemen had appropriate talents to display, there were some, who shall remain unnamed, whose particular talent did not win over the crowd, but such moments were taken in stride and the competition proceeded with as much humor as it had before.

Last, but not least, was the eveningwear competition. Some of the boys chose to pursue a more traditional route, however, there were those, namely Rod Williams '10, who found that their swimwear could also be used as formal wear. Williams decided to mix up his look a bit by tying up the tails of his "tuxedo," proving to everyone that timidity is not in his vocabulary. The gentlemen also answered various questions in their formal wear, ranging from the best pick-up line to the most embarrassing or interesting hook-up. The judges were then asked to determine a winner, although how they managed this is beyond me - I thought almost all of these guys should have won. In the end, the judges voted and crowned Mr. Jesse Stromwick as Mr. Hamilton, a vote that seemed to win the support of the entire audience.

So congratulations to Mr. Stromwick and to all the gentlemen for their participation and time in support of a wonderful cause. I truly have laughed that hard only a handful of times in my life, so I must thank the boys for a night that I won't soon forget!

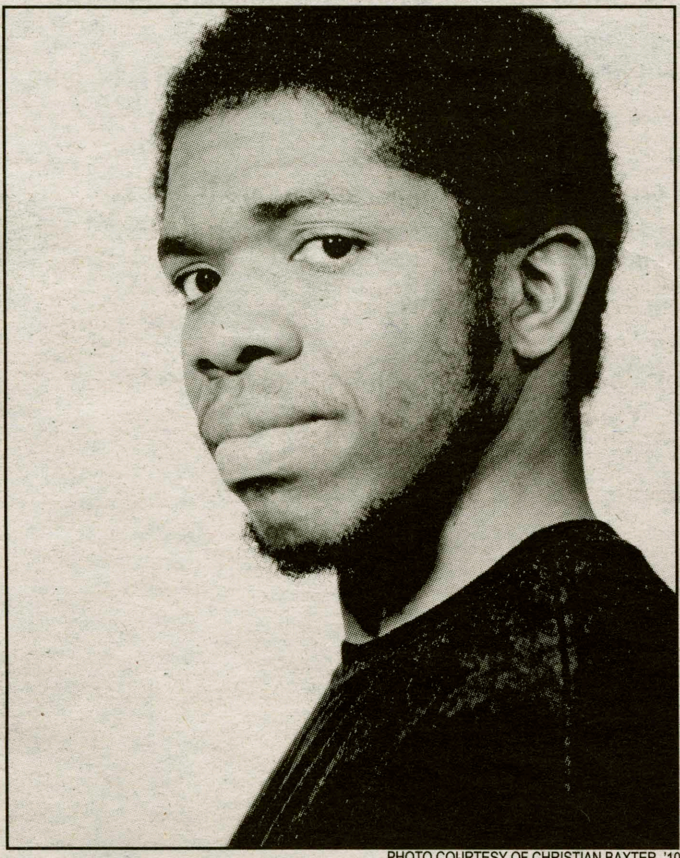


PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN BAXTER '10

Spotted: *Who Is That?*

Christian Baxter Class of 2010

by Laura Lee Smith '11
Features Writer

They say laughter is the best medicine. If that is the case, Christian Baxter '10, must never get sick; he's always laughing. Here's an example of how he probably has the title of "most distinctive" laugh at Hamilton College: at the Voices of Color Lecture series last school year, Suchin Pak spoke at the Chapel. During her lecture Christian was laughing so hysterically that she stopped what she was saying and commented that she wished that she could take Baxter everywhere with her. She thought it would make her seem funnier. But that's the power of laughter: it's contagious. A laugh like Baxter's will make you laugh even if you can't even think of anything funny. We discussed why he thought things were so funny and he had no solid answer. He just likes to laugh.

When Christian isn't being spotted around campus laughing and smiling, he's usually hard at work. He is a huge participant in theater. He has been in the past two dinner theater plays, under the direction of Professor Mark Cryer, both of which centered on Black History. Last academic year he starred in *The Meeting*, a play about Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, along with Luvuyo Mandela '09. This year he played a host of characters in the College's version of Anna Deavere Smith's *Fires in the Mirror*, with a large cast of students. He has received rave reviews and is very well rounded in his craft.

Currently, Baxter is working on a play that he has written, cast, and plans to present around mid-April at Hamilton. He has completed his theater major requirements even though he is just a junior. Although he is laughing, he is still working hard to get ahead. He is one of the most notable actors here on the Hill.

In many ways we could all learn something from Baxter. He has a smile and a laugh for you anytime you need one and is an amazing individual. He is spreading his talent for the theater and spreading joy with every chuckle. If you ever see him, say "hi," and if you ever hear him laughing, join in.

Pizza Wars Pits Pallate Against Preference

PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

by Hadley Keller '12
Features Writer

College kids love free food and college kids love pizza. It is, therefore, no great surprise that last Wednesday Feb. 11th's FebFest event "Pizza Wars" was a success. As coordinator Jane Barnes '09 explained, "[Pizza Wars] combines all of the best things about college into one spectacular event. You start with pizza, the classic staple meal for college students, then add in a dash of competition; you can't go wrong." The event was first organized by the coordinators of 2007's FebFest, and this year drew a record turnout, with over 100 people flooding into the Annex in the first half-hour. Although all the tables were full for nearly the entire night, there was always pizza available. The rules of the event are simple: attendees show their FebFest buttons and are admitted into an Annex full of all the pizza you could ever imagine. After tasting as many slices as possible, participants voted for the pizza they thought was the best by dropping a raffle ticket into one of the coordinating baskets. Although the taste test was a blind one, many students could easily pick out the signature flavors of their favorite restaurants. Contesting pizzas were from six local businesses: Tony's Pizzeria, the Pizza Place, Grande's Pizzeria, O'Scugnizzo's, Nice & Easy, and Hamilton's own Bon Appetit. The event is a great way for Hamilton students to sample the local cuisine, as well as a source of much deserved advertizing for Clinton-area businesses. "They are all amazing people," says Barnes of the local business owners. "They are very generous to our college and deserve to be recognized." It sure seemed like attendees of the competition were satisfied with the work of the featured restaurants.

Additionally, the event provided a festive atmosphere and a certain break from mid-week studying. Tables of varying sizes filled up the Tolles Pavilion, and students clustered to eat and talk. As one first year exclaimed upon entering the event: "Wow, I didn't know this was a sit-down event!" Indeed, attendees were pleasantly surprised by the opportunity created by Pizza Wars for a fun night of eating and socializing, and participated enthusiastically in the competition. The voting came down to just a few tickets, but the ultimate winner of Pizza Wars was Tony's Pizzeria. O'Sugnizzio's came in second, and Pizza Place & Grandes tied for third. All in all, the event was a fun and delicious part of this year's many FebFest activities.

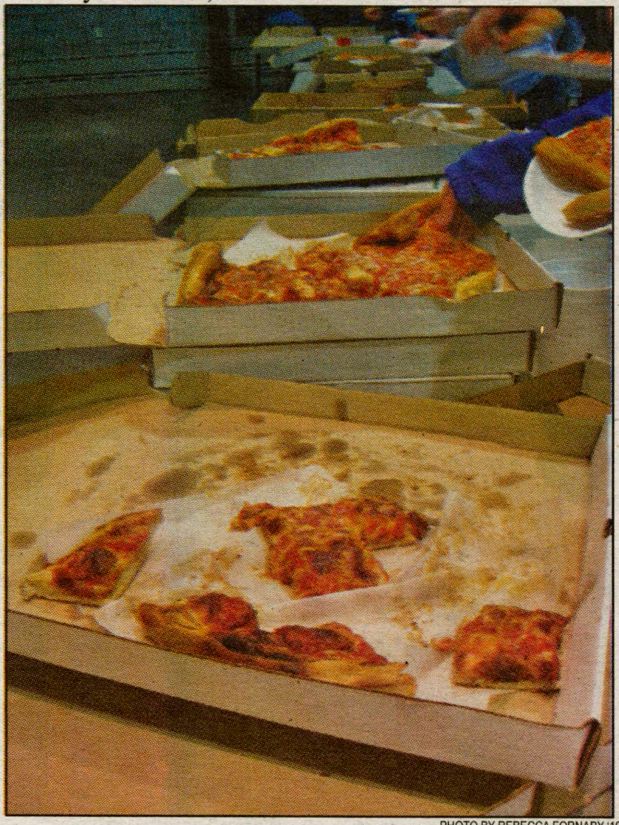


PHOTO BY REBECCA FORNABY '10

PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVE TEWKSBURY

***FebFest lights up the Hill*: A dazzling display of fireworks marked the end of one of Hamilton's most ambitious FebFests yet.**

A Closer Look: Trivia Night

by Jessie Brown '12
Features Writer

It all begins at 7:15. Excitement builds as students and professors alike line up for what is arguably the highlight of their Tuesday: Trivia Night.

Though the event begins at 8, the line forms earlier to ensure that teams get a table. With an average of 30 teams a week, tables in the central room of the Little Pub go fast, and late arrivals are forced into the outer rooms. The popular event began in the fall semester of 2007.

Trivia Night has four basic rounds of four questions each. After each of these rounds, there is a special round. The first is a picture round, which requires identification of specific facts regarding the people pictured. The next is halftime, in which teams receive three clues about a celebrity. The amount of points they receive for answering correctly decreases proportionally to the number of clues they receive. The bonus round features a series of themed questions that are worth one point per correct answer. The final round works similarly to the final question of Jeopardy.

Teams have the length of a song to come up with their answers and turn them in for specific point values. In addition to providing a means of timing, the eclectic playlist for Hamilton's Trivia Night also serves to fill what would otherwise be silence. It is also dance music, as some exuberant teams demonstrate after handing in their answers.

"This format is the same as in any major city," said Paul Ryan, Assistant Director of Student Activities, who runs the event. He continued, "[Question topics] are a balance between academic ones and pop culture and entertainment." This week, the Young Democrats formulated the questions around the theme of U.S. presidents.

The top three winning teams receive gift certificates to Tex Mex, $30, $20, and $10 respectively. A team is also selected randomly to receive a $10 gift certificate, so "it's still worth coming out," Ryan commented. In addition, first place winners are guaranteed a table at the next Trivia Night.

Teams of five or fewer are invited to compete every Tuesday night at 8.

PHOTO BY GREG HUFFAKER '09

Backstage with Comedian Michael Ian Black

by Jennifer Vano '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

I sat down with comedian Michael Ian Black after his Feb. 13 show in Wellin Hall to discuss the mistakes the Doritos brand has made, becoming a comedian, his children and racism.

Jennifer Vano: So I was on your website earlier, and I saw that you have almost a million blog hits. What's going to happen with you hit a million?
Michael Ian Black: There is a contest.

J: There's a contest, but is there *really* a contest?
MIB: You don't just say you're gonna give away prizes and then don't give away prizes. There is a whole list.

J: How are you going to celebrate?
MIB: I am celebrating by giving. That's what I do. I am a giver. You get a Comedy Central *Stella* DVD autographed by me, a copy of my children's book *Chicken Cheeks* autographed by me, a copy of my custom van autographed by one of my kids, an old sock (not autographed), the rest of the rice my wife made the other day, and some other sh*t I've got laying around that I don't want.

But, I mean a lot of blog sites get a million hits a day. I've had my blog for two years. I am just getting to a million hits now. I mean it's really pathetic when you think about it.

J: It's not pathetic.
MIB: No, to me it's a milestone.

J: I'm impressed. I don't even have a blog.
MIB: You write for the paper. People read the paper. Well, I definitely read it.

J: You read The Spectator before your show. Did you read any other Hamilton publications?
MIB: I read the *Duel Observer.*

J: That's an attempt at being funny. What's your take?
MIB: I didn't get through it. I didn't like that "Ghostface Killah Murders Four Afta Concert." I mean its one of those things where they don't understand when they are writing it that it is blatantly racist. It's not even a joke. Look, I love white people. I live in Connecticut. But if you're going be racist, at least be aware that you're being racist. That's my problem with it.

J: Well, that's good advice. Do you have an ultimate piece of advice for college students?
MIB: Keep going to school because there are no jobs out there.

J: And to a student who wants to be a comedian? What advice would you give him?
MIB: Be as funny as you can be. Be very, very funny. That's probably the best advice you can offer a comedian. Don't be unfunny. Don't not be funny.

J: That's sound advice. So stay in school. Be funny if you want to be a comedian... that's it?
MIB: There's really no trick to being a comedian other than being funny.

J: Are there any popular comedians out there right now that you just don't think are funny at all?
MIB: Nobody is coming to mind. There are people that I like less than others.

J: Who's your favorite?
MIB: Probably Jim Gaffigan. He is a nice man.

J: What is your most awkward fan encounter besides that guy from Waterville who asked you a question after the show?
MIB: There was a guy who decided to just come up on stage with us when we were doing a show recently.

J: How did you react?
MIB: Not well. With some trepidation. I was looking for the knife...

J: Where were you?
MIB: Berkley, CA.

J: Those Californians can get a little crazy...
MIB: You Hamiltonians behave well here.

J: So what was your thing in college?
MIB: I was in a sketch comedy troupe. I was obnoxious sketch comedy guy.

J: Every college needs one of those. So another thing you are passionate about is Doritos. Am I right?
MIB: Well, I have opinions about Doritos. I was on the Doritos website recently, too. They have a game on there where you have to guess the flavor. It's called the quest. It says, "guessing the flavor is just the beginning." And my feeling is: I don't ever wanna be in a situation where guessing the flavor is the beginning.

J: What happens? What's the end?
MIB: Well that's the quest isn't it?

J: And you'll never find out?
MIB: I'm never willing to do the beginning, which is guessing the flavor. I don't wanna be in that situation.

J: I think that's a good choice. How do you feel about Doritos 3D? Have you ever even tried them?
MIB: Yeah, I didn't try those. I don't like puffy chips. I have a pretty strong opinion about puffy chips. You bite them and you get air pockets. It's the sensation of eating air.

J: Well, now that you've moved on from Doritos, what is your snack of choice?
MIB: My default snack is Rold Gold Pretzel Sticks. Not Rods. It has to be Sticks.

J: Your poker skills on Wikipedia are described as aggressive and controlled.
MIB: Controlled aggressive.

J: Do you think that that phrase applies to your everyday life?
MIB: Well, it was nice of them to say that on Wikipedia, but I think they gave my poker skills more credit than they deserve.

J: There's a lot of Wikipedia space dedicated to your poker skills.
MIB: Yeah, I don't know who wrote that; it certainly wasn't me. I think poker in general can be revealing about people.

J: So you think that description is accurate?
MIB: Well, I don't think I'm that aggressive...although maybe I am.

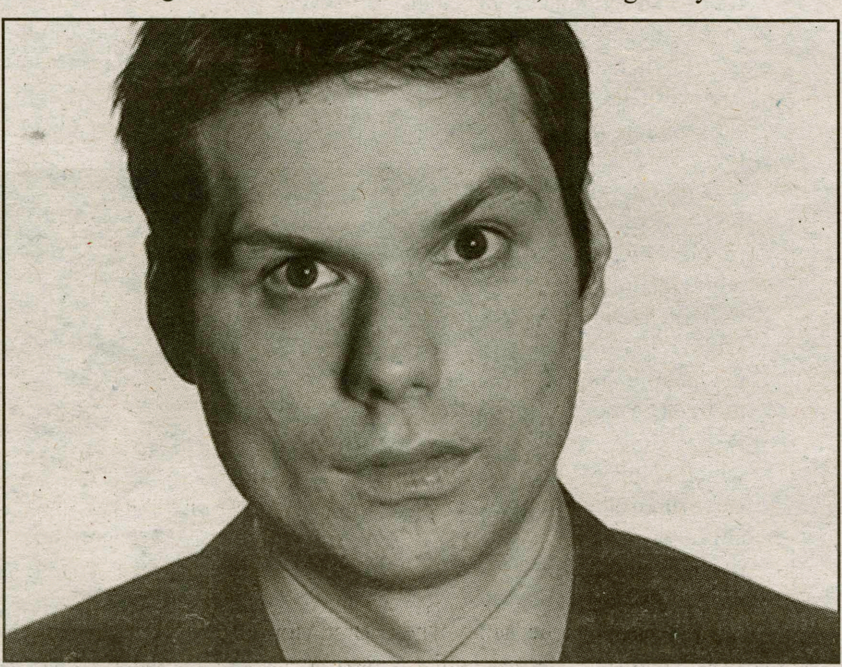
> **"My feeling is: I don't ever want to be in a situation where guessing the flavor is the beginning."**
> **-Michael Ian Black**

Michael Ian Black Comedy Performance Is a Big Hit

by Sarah Bingham '12
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

After many students criticized Ghostface Killah's concert, it is not surprising that the next big performer would feign nervousness about impressing this supposedly tough crowd. Comedian Michael Ian Black, however, faced the challenge head-on, and obviously, with a sense of humor. Black, who has appeared on Comedy Central with his comedy troupe *Stella* and VH1's "I Love The..." series, has also had roles in a number of movies, most notably *Wet Hot American Summer.* He has also written several books of essays and one children book, which was released last month.

Although Black has a very specific brand of humor that can only be described with the phrase "flying by the seat of his pants," his comedic styling appealed to the general student population—even most of the people who were unwillingly the subject of his jokes. Much of Black's routine consisted of commenting on events that were immediately occurring. Woe were the people who walked in late, for example, as they became the butt of his next joke. Heaven forbid you wear an elephant hat and sit in the front row, although maybe the kid was just asking to have Black poke fun at his choice in headgear. And alas, if you happened to be a socialist writing a letter to *The Spectator*, you too would be called out —this time, not quite happily. Black's remarks on the Socialist article ultimately seemed more like a political railing than actual jokes.


WWW.THEAGENCYGROUP.COM
Comedian Black poked fun at the packed and enthusiastic audience.

However, many of the observations Black made were creatively and hilariously true. Who will ever be able to hear the name "Utica" again without thinking of his comment that it sounds like "a female reproductive organ"? Also, when thinking about ways to improve the current economy, it will be hard not to remember his inventive idea: fixing up Alcatraz and imprisoning the Bush family. And Flava Flav. And making a reality show out of the situation.

Students found it particularly hilarious when Black commenced his commentary on the McDonald's website. Apparently, there are specific McDonald's sites that target different nationalities, though in an unintentionally humorous way. As I sat in one of the back rows, it was astonishing to see how many iPhones were pulled out of coat pockets in order to check the truth of his remarks. Incredibly, they were all accurate.

Surprisingly, Black knew as much about Hamilton as he knew about the virtual facets of McDonald's. He impressed us all with his knowledge of that evening's events and amazed us when he even proved to be enlightened about the campus's fire laws. Although most students gave the lukewarm review that he was "pretty funny," everyone seemed to agree that the amount of homework he had done on Hamilton was rather striking.

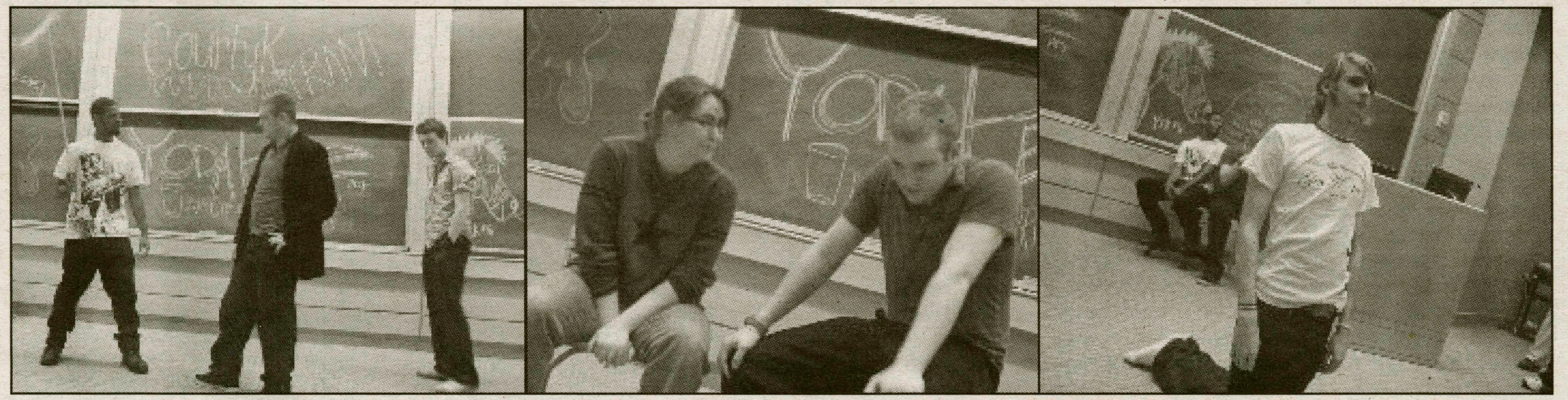
Students Yodel with Yodelpez Atop the Hill

by Zachary Pinichi '12
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

Hamilton's favorite improv troupe, Yodapez, kicked off their first show of the semester this past Sunday in the Science Center auditorium. Particularly exciting, the show marked the return of two Yodapez members, Courtney Kollmer '10 and Francesca Villa '10, from study abroad programs. It was hosted by Yodapez members Rouvan Mahmud '11 and Cassie Sullivan '09, and was divided into two parts. During the first half of the roughly hour long show, the members of Yodapez split into two teams for three games of competitive improvisation. The first game played was called Beastie Rap; in it, both teams picked a representative to engage in a fierce battle of wit and rhyme. The audience picked a random name, and once the members of Yodapez dropped what can only be described as a vicious beat, the battle was on. The representatives of the two teams were tasked with creating rhymes based on the audience's suggested name. The catch, however, is that the representative could not say the rhyming word, and instead relied on their teammates to figure out the attempted rhyme. A moment's hesitation led to defeat and rotation of the team representative.

After three or four rounds of intense rhymes, Yodapez switched games to Alternate Universe. In this game, one team creates a scene based on an audience suggestion, and at any time during that skit the other team can say "Alternate Universe", placing their own actors in the scene but maintaining the position of the actors already in place and building off of the last line said. This led to some very comedic transitions. The third game, Microcosm, picked up the pace, requiring that each team create a minute long skit, then cut it down to a 30 second skit, again into a 15 second skit, and then a final speed run as short as physically possible. The results were tremendously funny, at one point transforming a skit about a scarecrow's brain transplant in the Wizard of Oz into Dorothy's dog Toto violently gnawing on the scarecrow's neck.

Yodapez then moved onto their collaborative long-form improv, starting with a game called Gibberish. The group sent two of its members out of the room, asked the audience for a suggestion to act out, and then proceeded to inform the two members of what exactly they were doing. In gibberish. And when the suggestion is mowing Chewbacca with a swordfish, things are bound to go awry. In what seemed like an odd transition, the two MCs told stories about their experiences in third grade, only to have those stories transformed into hilarious skits by their fellow troupe members. The final game of the evening, an audience favorite, combined a Bollywood show, 40 men and women dancing, a hero slaying a dragon, a saucy heroine, an even saucier pillar and everyone's favorite Christian Bale into one of the best skits of the night, a skit that became progressively better as each member of Yodapez added their own personal touch to a truly uproarious scene. The improv games were consistently funny throughout the night, and it's safe to say that not a single person left without a good laugh or two.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASHLYN RAZZO '11.

From Left: Kadahj Bennett '12, Mike Bieber '12, Nick Fesette '09, Ilse Zoerb '11 and Dave Moroney '09, members of Yodapez, perform skits.

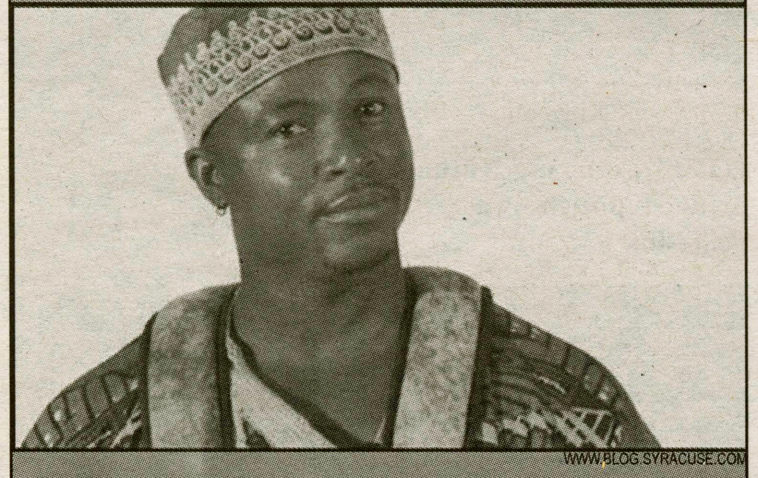
African Beats Bring Rhythm to Students

by Jazmine Skye Coleman '09
Arts & Entertainment Contributor

On Feb. 17, the Adanfo African Dance Ensemble graced Hamilton College with its energetic and captivating presence. The event, organized by The Hamilton College Black and Latino Student Union, is one of many planned in celebration of Black History Month. The audience could not help clapping and nodding along with the complex beats while watching the accompanying dancers manipulate their bodies to the music.

A new groove introduced each segment, followed by variations and dance performances. The dancers, miraculously unexhausted by the rhythmically and physically challenging dance moves, took a number of impressive solos. Even a few of Hamilton's finest took to the stage, some less voluntarily than others, to try some of the freshly demonstrated techniques. Before the CD advertisements and final words, the ensemble managed to get the entire audience onto the floor of the Events Barn to learn a social song and dance of celebration.

The Adanfo African Dance Ensemble, based in Syracuse, NY, specializes in West African drum and dance performance, as well as education and instrument sales. Leader and master drummer, David Etse Nyadedzor, along with the other members of the group, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to exchange time honored traditions and art forms in the name of mutually broadening cultural perspectives.



WWW.BLOG.SYRACUSE.COM

Leader David Etse Nyadedzor taught traditional dance.

Musicians Battle for Glory

by Matt Nudell '11
Arts & Entertainment Writer

On the eve of the Rocky Horror party, six student bands competed in the Annex for one coveted prize: the title of victor of FebFest's Battle of the Bands. An acoustic set from two freshmen playing guitar and djembe kicked off the evening.

Next up was the funk motley crew Space Copter, featuring Wes Hughes on saxophone, Mike "The F**K" Kranz on electric guitar, and Bennett Wilson on keyboards. The band took the inebriated audience on a musical odyssey through symphonic jam band material, funk tunes and hardcore polka. Of course, no one could forget Winston Cook-Wilson's original set that featured intimate piano ballads under his pseudonym Captain Clothing. Supposedly, Wilson's music has already generated a cult following at Kenyon College.

Nevertheless, the subtle, quiet nature of Captain Clothing's musical landscape was shattered by the triumphant return of Apple Wagon. The band welcomed back Brett Morrell (lead guitar) after his semester abroad in Prague. Apple Wagon debuted four originals and rocked out to their renowned originals "100 Rabbit Groove," "Icarus" and "PLB." The audience exploded into insanity and uncontrollable ecstasy when the band ended their set with their cover of The Clash's "Rock the Casbah." An electric storm then descended upon the Annex from the hard rock trio Kid Charlemagne, who played a few original rock tunes and a couple classics, including "The Bends."

PHOTO BY JULIO MONTERROSO '10.

The Downbeat Keys, the last group in the line-up, won the Battle of the Bands.

Finally, DBK, Hamilton's acclaimed hip-hop group, exploded onto the stage with their originals "Slow Down," "Lyricist," "My Pen" and "Regular People." The Downbeat Keys also performed South Park's classic "California Love." When the dust had cleared, the ill "ghetto-funk" lyricists of DBK stood on top of the Hill as champion of Battle of the Bands.

WEEKEND DRINKING HOROSCOPES

by Steve Allinger '09
Staff Seer

Aries: Your thoughtful and reflective side will be on display this weekend. Get a good bottle of Cabernet and impress your friends with philosophical ramblings slurred through your grotesquely purpled wine lips.

Taurus: People can tell a lot from the beverage you choose to drink on the weekend. For instance, a nice plastic handle of vodka says "I'm on a budget, and I'm not ruling out stabbing someone tonight."

Gemini: Looking for a nice solid six points this weekend? Drink a case of Red Dog and wander the Dark Side until the mixture of shitty beer and even shittier architecture triggers your violent side.

Cancer: Your Valentine's Day fiasco left you emotionally shattered. Getting double-teamed by Jim Bean and Jack Daniels should do wonders for your self-esteem.

Leo: If you are feeling particularly frisky this weekend, try making jello shots. They are fun to make and, best of all, children love them!

Virgo: Although drinking alcohol may seem pedestrian to you after discovering the joys of huffing gasoline, remember that every time you inhale that heavenly regular unleaded, you are supporting terrorism in the Middle East.

Libra: In light of Black History Month, you should go sake bombing with some friends. This may not make sense to you, but after a half dozen or so, it won't have to.

Scorpio: Alcohol is sometimes referred to as a social lubricant. A SOCIAL lubricant, you sick bastard.

Sagittarius: Tired of being a wall-flower? Want to be the life of the party? Take a dozen shots of tequila and you'll have so many friends that you'll be forced to puke all over them!

Capricorn: You attend Hamilton College, you will drink Keystone this weekend.

Aquarius: You are about to embark on a long and difficult journey. You won't get far lugging those heavy brain cells. A handle of Captain Morgan's will help lighten the load.

Pisces: You have just completed a long and difficult journey. Celebrate with Andre, the champagne homeless people have been celebrating life with for over 50 years.

How Many Lettuce Heads?

by Joshua Hicks '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

CHRISTOPHER STRONG

In 1933, director Dorothy Arzner created the brilliant classic *Christopher Strong*, starring Colin Clive as Chris, a respected, married British gentleman, and a young Katherine Hepburn as the high-flying pilot, Lady Cynthia Darrington. The two become involved in a romantic and passionate affair while struggling to avoid scandal and the disruption of their family and occupations.

I enjoyed this film very much, but there were certainly times when I found myself laughing, though I could see others would have cried some 70 years ago. Still, no matter how over-dramatic the stars may have been back in the day, Arzner creates a sensational portrait of just how different a woman's duty can be, both in regards to herself and in regards to the man she loves. Each character, whether it was Chris' eccentric daughter Monica or his reserved and conservative wife, was compelling and well played. As far as the men go, I found Chris more petty than "strong" and wondered how hard it was for Arzner to create such a tale of romance and desire. Perhaps it didn't take that much work at all.

Simply said: see *Strong*, folks. I give it 4 Lettuce Heads out of 5.

UP THE YANGTZE

On Sunday, Feb. 15, I had the pleasure of watching the last of four films over the weekend, from the *Human Rights Watch* Series. The four films were shown in place of the Sunday F.I.L.M. series, and dealt with some very difficult and serious topics. The film I chose to write about was *Up The Yangtze* by Yung Chang. This film, unlike the others, looked at two specific individuals and included director Chang's narration at times. But it always brought the focus back to his subjects, who worked for a boat line that toured the land where the Yangtze River flows.

Immediately, a sad tone is set when Chang explains the purpose of the Farewell Tours: saying goodbye to the land as the river rises in the midst of the creation of a dam. The two young subjects featured, Jerry and Cindy (who were given English names for the tourists' sake) work on the same boat, and as a result of different backgrounds, have very different experiences while on board. Jerry, a spoiled and ambitious money-maker, comes from a rich background and works the bar and other various public jobs while meeting and greeting. On the other hand, humble Cindy comes from an impoverished home where her parents force her to work to sustain the family. While aboard, she works and keeps the kitchen tidy.

Both journeys are filled with their trials as well as joy. I found this film especially interesting when the Chinese instructors tell the employees proper mannerisms for "Western" tourists. Being a travel fan, I enjoyed these scenes very much. The cinematography in this film was astounding, though also depressing at times (especially watching Cindy's house get slowly covered over an elapsed time shot by the river). Yung Chang's work was both sentimental and poignant, particularly when considering how people live their day-to-day lives across the world.

As I've said before, this is not Hollywood so rating this documentary is hard, but overall, I'd give this film 5 out of 5 Lettuce Heads.

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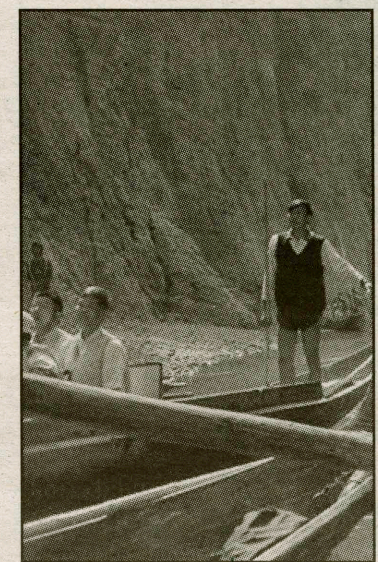
Christopher Strong **(1933), starring Katharine Hepburn, is a classic.**



WWW.KUCI.ORG

Up the Yangtze **is an emotional journey, a film that is worth seeing.**

Weekly Charts

MUSIC
(billboard.com)

Top Songs
1. Eminem, 50 Cent and Dr. Dre - Crack a Bottle
2. Kanye West - Heartless
3. Lady GaGa feat. Colby O'Donis - Just Dance
4. Kelly Clarkson - My Life Would Suck Without You
5. Beyonce - Single Ladies

Top Albums
1. The Fray - The Fray
2. Bruce Springsteen - Working on Dream
3. Dierks Bentley - Feel That Fire
4. Taylor Swift - Fearless
5. Beyonce - I am...Sasha Fierce

MOVIES
(imdb.com)

1. *Friday the 13th*
2. *He's Just Not That Into You*
3. *Taken*
4. *Coraline*
5. *Confessions of a Shopaholic*

BOOKS
(The New York Times Best Seller List)

Paperback Fiction
1. *The Shack*, By William P. Young
2. *The Reader*, By Bernhard Schlink
3. *Sundays At Tiffany's*, By James Patterson And Gabrielle Charbonnet
4. *Revolutionary Road*, By Richard Yates
5. *Firefly Lane*, By Kristin Hannah

Paperback Non-Fiction
1. *Dreams From My Father*, By Barack Obama
2. *Three Cups Of Tea*, By Greg Mortenson And David Oliver Relin
3. *The Audacity Of Hope*, By Barack Obama
4. *Team Of Rivals*, By Doris Kearns Goodwin
5. *I Hope They Serve Beer In Hell*, By Tucker Max

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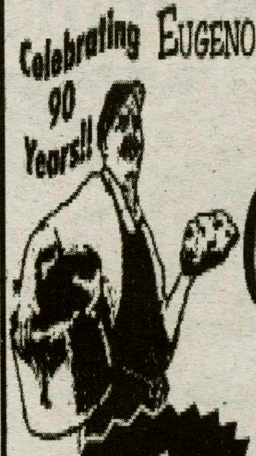

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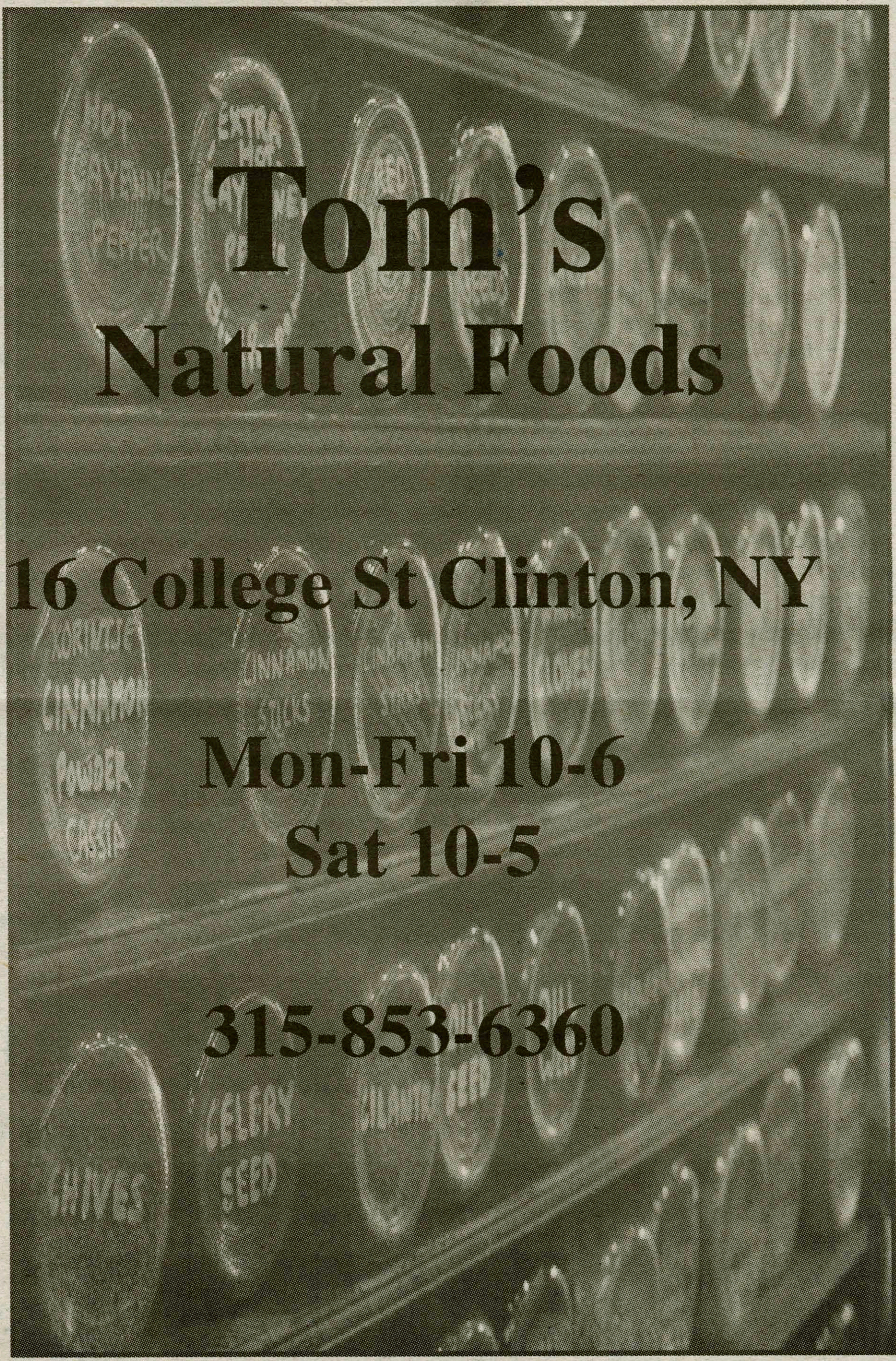

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Here, Have Some of this Delicious... Mealworm?

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

What's the craziest thing you've ever eaten? Many of the students who went to the Biology Department Phylum Feast in celebration of Darwin Day on Friday, Feb. 12 had a new answer to that question at the end of their gastronomical experience. Samples of eighteen different taxa (biological classification groups) were available for tasting, from mealworm cookies to alligator bites to chocolate-covered crickets. Even bacteria was represented; in fact, the bacteria-containing yogurt was widely considered one of the more pedestrian offerings.

Most students had no trouble with such common fare as chicken wings, blue cheese (complete with fungi), grapes and shrimp, but as the offerings became more exotic, opinions began to vary. Whereas Nick Richards '12 declared the sea urchin roe "just vile," Thomas Coppola '10 felt "it didn't really taste like anything." The crickets went fast, according to Ernest Williams, the Christian A. Johnson Excellence in Teaching Professor of Biology, who estimated the total crowd at "sixty to seventy." Coppola described the crickets as, "the weirdest thing there. It was chocolate and then it was crunchy and just... ugh."

Some students, like Richards and Coppola, tried everything available but others, such as Shyama Nair '10 took more selective risks. Upon trying the alligator bites, Nair said "it's weird, not something I'd order in a restaurant." However, she refused to try the snails, although escargot is a favored dish in French cuisine. "No way," she said, "I'm staying away from those." Likewise, a plastic box of cookies saw high traffic until students realized there were mealworms inside. Not all students were deterred, however. Said Coppola, "you can't taste them."

Other misgivings were quelled when Professor of Biology David Gapp assured the gastronomic explorers that the alligator being tasted was not a former resident of the Science Center. Coppola repeated the popular refrain that the alligator tasted "like chicken," although other students doused the reptile in soy sauce and reported a pork-like flavor.

The Phylum Feast was held in honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, the famous naturalist best

see *Crowd*, page 18

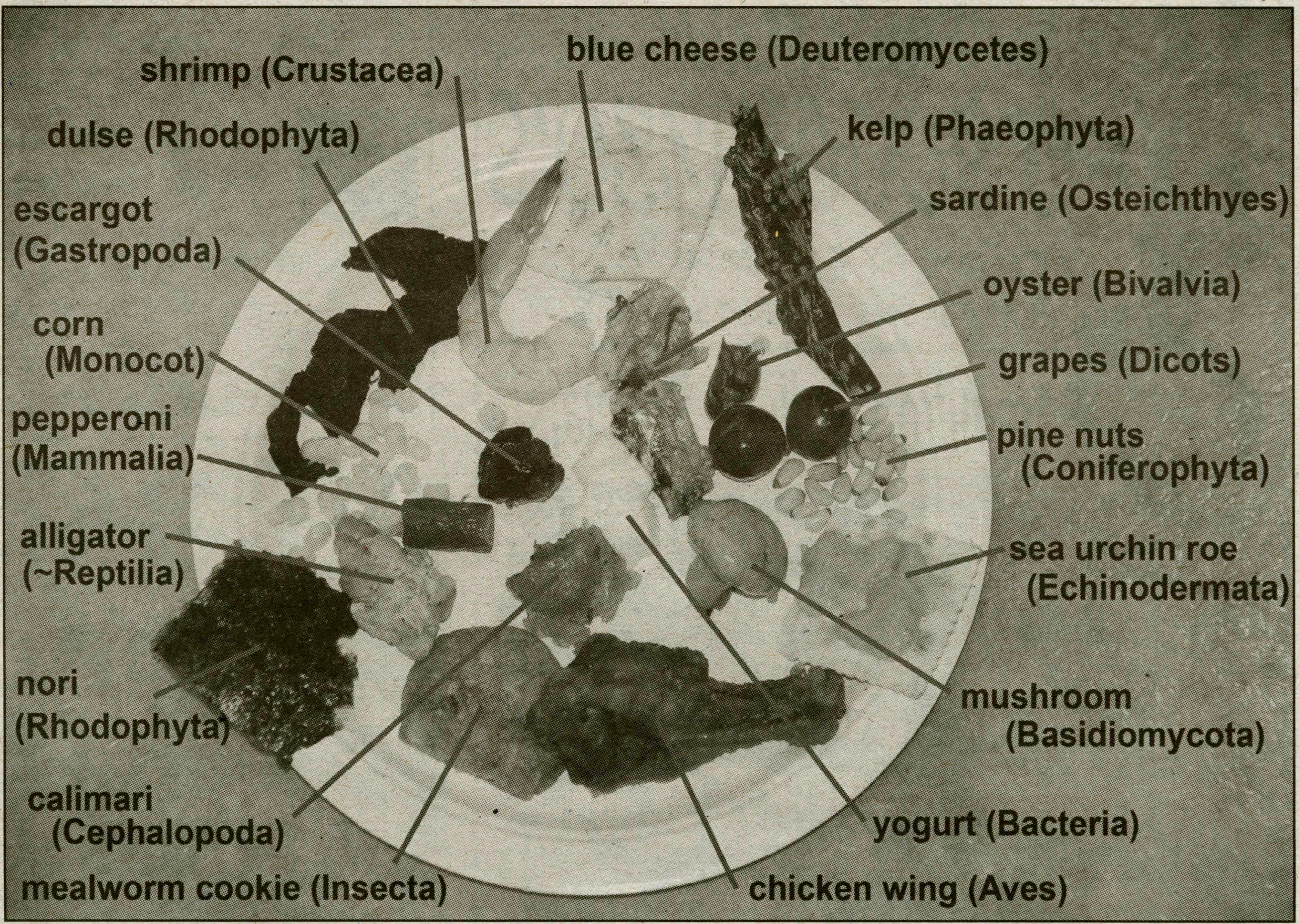


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ERNEST WILLIAMS

The Phylum Feast Featured a wide selection of food from 18 different taxa. (Not shown: chocolate-covered crickets).

Why I Love LAMP

by Dave Riordan '09
Science & Technology Sr. Writer

About four years ago, Hamilton's presence on the web was wildly different. Sure hamilton.edu's front page wanted to know if we "were ready," but buried deeper in the Hamilton web servers was a hotbed of spam bots and hacked websites of students and campus organizations. Back then, things were different. Students could do much more with the webspace Hamilton gave them, but because of the power of those underlying technologies that students and organizations had access to were so powerful, they were abused by hackers. And about a year and a half ago, after much soul searching, Hamilton ITS decided to put a stop to dynamic student websites and focus their resources on building the main Hamilton website and the technologies that power it.

The technologies that power the internet are, from a computer scientist's point of view, relatively simple, but still incredibly powerful, and keep getting more powerful. Internet technologies, to borrow from Jefferson, "stand on the shoulders of giants," with one technology building upon another to create a more powerful (and often easier to use) platform upon which to build something else on. In technologists' terms, this is called the "stack."

When it comes to the web, the stack can get pretty big and pretty powerful. When these stacks get interesting for the web is when they let you do more than just serve the same unchanging webpage over and over. The ability to easily create and serve dynamic content over the web has been one of the key elements of the web version 2.0 revival. The point is you can do more by implementing these technologies built upon each other.

For that reason, the stack matters and the choice of what stack is used limits what can be built upon it.

Hamilton's web stack is built on ColdFusion, a programming language built for the web, designed to make things that were once hard (like working with databases) pretty easy. Mike Sprague,

see *Web*, page 18

RecycleMania 2009 Results Through Week 3 (Feb. 7)

Grand Champion:

New York Schools:	*Cumul. Recycling Rate (%)*
1. Onondoga Community	52.16%
2. RIT	44.11%
3. SUNY Binghamton	39.11%
4. New York University	29.42%
5. Vassar College	28.82%
6. Ithaca College	28.75%
7. University of Rochester	28.34%
8. Hobart William Smith	27.09%
9. Bard College	26.15%
10. SUNY Albany	22.89%
11. SUNY Buffalo	19.51%
12. Stony Brook University	17.39%
13. Hamilton College	*16.99%*
14. Union College	4.35%

Hamilton Week 4: 12.40%

National Grand Champion Rank: #151/195

Per Capita Classic:

New York Schools:	*Cumul. Recyclables (lbs./person)*
1. RIT	5.71
2. Vassar College	3.84
3. Hamilton College	*2.78*
4. University of Rochester	2.70
5. Hobart William Smith	2.67
6. SUNY Binghamton	2.41
7. Stony Brook University	2.40
8. Bard College	2.16
9. Onondaga Community	2.12
10. SUNY Albany	1.98
11. Ithaca College	1.83
12. Paul Smiths College	1.57
13. SUNY Fredonia	1.09
14. SUNY Buffalo	0.87
15. New York University	0.86
16. Yeshiva University	0.36
17. Union College	0.12

Results from recyclemania.org and Recycling Task Force

Gaming Reborn: Digital Downloads

by Zachary Pintchik '12
Science & Technology Writer

It used to be the case that if you wanted to play a new video game, you had to walk to your local brick and mortar video game store, bring your newly purchased game back home, unwrap it and - heavens forbid you bought a computer game - install it on your computer, all before you could even press start. But times are changing. Instead of heading to your local Best Buy, Target, GameStop, or other similar electronics store, various companies are now providing means to digitally purchase computer and video games.

Video games are not the first entertainment medium to receive the digital distribution treatment: the iTunes Music Store popularized music downloads with reasonable per-song pricing, the option to buy a single song off of an album and the convenience of purchasing music from home. The convenience of digital distribution has extended to movies, television shows and books, among other things, but video games are the newest recipients of mainstream digital distribution.

That is not to say that it is an entirely new concept to download games. Independently developed computer games, which often have trouble finding a publisher and, by extension, shelf space at mainstream electronics outlets, have been sold on the Internet for a long time. The new developments have been in the digital distribution of mainstream games. The first big example of this was seen with the 2004 release of *Half-Life 2* via developer Valve's Steam platform. Steam offered customers the option to purchase and download the game online, without having to go to a store. Steam has gained popularity since its introduction, and now offers digital copies of all of Valve's computer games as well as a plethora of games from other developers and publishers, including games from publishing powerhouse Electronic Arts.

Steam's success as a platform has encouraged other companies to enter the digital distribution market, such as Stardock's Impulse, IGN Entertainment's Direct2Drive, and Paradox Interactive's GamersGate. Other websites, like CD Projekt's Good Old Games, offer digital, DRM-free copies of older games that are no longer in print. Even Amazon.com has jumped on the digital bandwagon, recently opening a new portion of their site devoted to selling casual PC games. A recent survey from the popular computer gaming blog Rock, Paper, Shotgun revealed that 93 percent of gamers have purchased at least one game via a digital distribution service in the past year, and 47 percent of all PC game purchases in the past year have been digital.

"I like the convenience of being able to buy a game without leaving my room, but I'm more comfortable having a hard copy in case Steam shuts down," commented Brett Banhazl '12. Even though many gamers express this sentiment, many companies are investing in digital distribution. On the console front, Sony, Nintendo and Microsoft have all released a digital download service for their respective consoles, offering a platform to games that might not warrant a disc release. Sony has also started to offer full games on their PlayStation Network, including *Warhawk*, *SOCOM: Confrontation* and the critically acclaimed *Burnout Paradise*. Microsoft has yet to follow suit with current-generation games, instead offering downloadable Xbox games from their Xbox Originals store, although a slight change of pace took place with the release of the "Lost and Damned" expansion for *Grand Theft Auto IV* for 1600 MS Points (about $20) on Tuesday.

The new content offers a variety of missions for about 10 hours of gameplay, which is longer than a good portion of action games released for $60 in the past year. The increased push towards digital distribution by both console and PC developers alike is sure to change the way consumers approach their game purchases in the future.

WWW.GEEK.COM

Steam is a fully functional gaming digital download site.

PROFESSOR PROFILE

Patrick Caruana, Chemistry

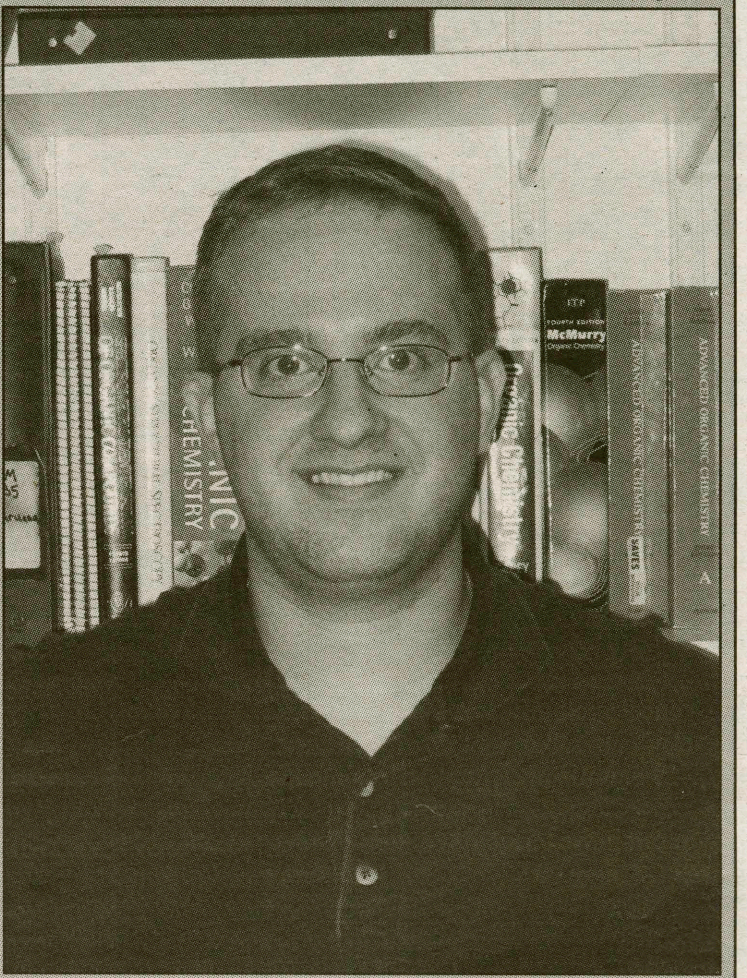


PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK CARUANA

Elijah LaChance: If you were to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

Patrick Caruana: Syracuse sports fan

EL: What areas of chemistry interest you most and why?

PC: Organic chemistry. In college I became fascinated with pharmaceutical drugs and other small molecules that have unique structures and potent biological activity. I became particularly interested in how organic molecules are put together in a lab setting. My undergraduate research advisor, who also taught my advanced organic course, inspired me to pursue graduate studies in synthetic organic chemistry.

EL: How did you eventually choose to teach chemistry for a living?

PC: I always enjoyed helping others to understand chemistry. In graduate school, I had a variety of TA assignments that ranged from teaching lab to teaching organic lectures when professors were absent. I later attended a conference for chemists interested in teaching careers, which helped to solidify my path.

EL: Why Hamilton?

PC: I live in the Syracuse area, and last year Hamilton had an opening for a visiting assistant professor to teach organic lecture and labs. I was attracted to the opportunity to teach at a well-regarded liberal arts college.

EL: What is your funniest/most entertaining childhood memory?

PC: I once became startled while on my neon green bike when my brother pulled in to the driveway. I ended up running into my parents' parked car and fell over. My brother recounted this event in a best man's speech at my wedding.

EL: Do you have any habits students might notice? If so, what are they?

PC: I sometimes incorporate unusual examples in lecture if there is the least bit of relevance... for example I discussed the connection between resonance structures and ligers, and a few weeks ago I tried to mimic carbon-hydrogen bond oscillations.

EL: What is your favorite band/singer, your favorite ice cream flavor, your favorite book, and your favorite home-cooked meal?

PC: Band: I listen to a lot of classical music, but I also really enjoy Stevie Ray Vaughan. Ice cream: in all honesty, vanilla. Book: Chemistry, *Napoleon's Buttons* by Penny Le Couteur and Jay Burreson. Non-chemistry: I like Koontz and Crichton. Also, *The Bourne Identity* by Robert Ludlum. Literature: I recently enjoyed *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Home-cooked meal: any kind of pasta with marinara sauce or meat sauce.

EL: What would you say is your teaching style, and what can students expect who are in your classes?

PC: While organic chemistry is certainly challenging, it is by no means impossible to succeed in the course. My primary focus is to teach the fundamental principles of organic chemistry, which are rooted in concepts from general chemistry, and then to demonstrate their application to the structure and reactivity of molecules. I like to be engaging with the students in class; if students sense that a professor is truly excited about teaching the material, then I feel that it raises their interest level. Also, students will discover the far reaching consequences of organic chemistry in the context of examples that are provided throughout the semester. For example, I begin the first semester by showing the structures of molecules, ranging from spices to drugs, that have had a major impact in our society and then providing a historical overview of their rise to fame.

EL: Other than the Science Center, where can students expect to see you on campus?

PC: At Commons for lunch once in a while, or at the Pub on occassion. I also plan to attend some sporting events.

EL: What are your current research interests, and how might students be working with you on them?

PC: My general research interests lie in the field of synthetic organic chemistry. I am particularly interested in the conversion of renewable, biomass-derived compounds to more complex organic structures, which would serve as precursors to biologically active molecules. I look forward to beginning my research at Hamilton this summer. I will work alongside students in the laboratory, where they will learn standard synthetic organic techniques, learn how to characterize compounds based on various spectroscopic methods, and learn how to research the chemical literature.

EL: What have you enjoyed most about being a member of the Hamilton community?

PC: I have enjoyed the students' high level of commitment to their studies and their overall interest in being challenged. This inspires me to be the best teacher that I can be and to sometimes go beyond textbook concepts and examples if there is relevance. I also enjoy being part of a small department that fosters a collegial environment.

EL: What are some of your interests outside Hamilton?

PC: I enjoy hiking and, when time allows, playing music. I have been involved with music since I was in elementary school. In college I played piano in a few jazz groups and guitar in a rock/blues band. In graduate school, I revisited my classical roots by studying piano with a Rochester area concert pianist.

Web 2.0 Speeds Past as Hamilton Stuck in Park

Current System Limits Hackers, but Also Limits Internet Options for Hamilton Organizations

from Why, page 16

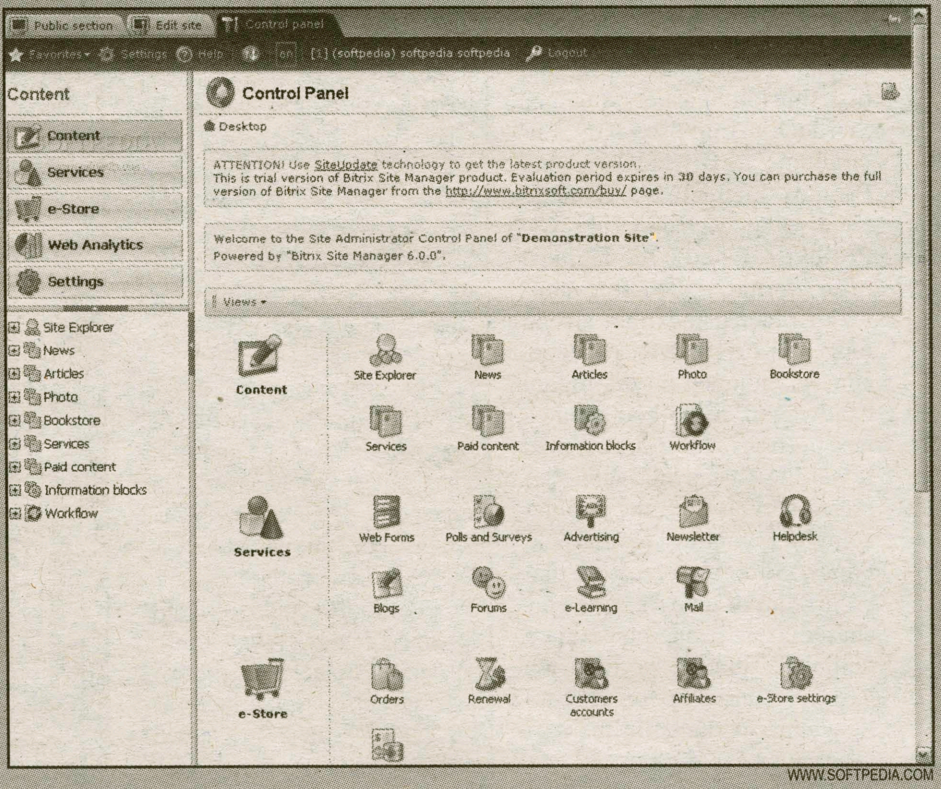
ITS's director of Web Services describes ColdFusion as the tool that's used to make the tools, the "connecting layer" that handles the things we don't, for the most part, see. On top of ColdFusion is SiteManager, which handles the managing of content for the main Hamilton site. SiteManager is written in ColdFusion, as are the various class wikis, blogs, and majority of other tools on the Hamilton website (though not BlackBoard and WebAdvisor).

Using SiteManager & ColdFusion with a variety of other web standards on top of it, Hamilton's Web Services team has built a powerful portal for the college, an incredibly useful information system (MyHamilton), and HOLAC, what former Media Board chair Chris Lloyd '09 calls "the most powerful alumni directory in the WORLD."

They've done for Hamilton what really can't be done at many other small colleges, and they are working on revamping SiteManager to be an even more integral platform for the future of the Hamilton site, eventually giving access to professors, students, and organizations to use it to build basic webpages in a way similar to writing a Word document.

Unfortunately for students and most organizations, that's all it will do, and as the Web 2.0 bubble took off, Hamilton students and student organizations were left behind. It all has to do with platforms and the choice of the technology stacks.

The powerful ColdFusion stack is off limits to students and student organizations. They cannot run code on it nor code for it in their Hamilton web space. Several years ago, students were given access to a different web stack, one that let them build basic pages in HTML (the same as now), as well as use PHP, a programming language, and MYSQL, a database. PHP & MYSQL have been building blocks of much of the stack of Web 2.0. They have become standard platforms for open adoption and some of the most successful and portable web products are built upon them. Individuals and organizations would run their own web applications, but would often forget about them.



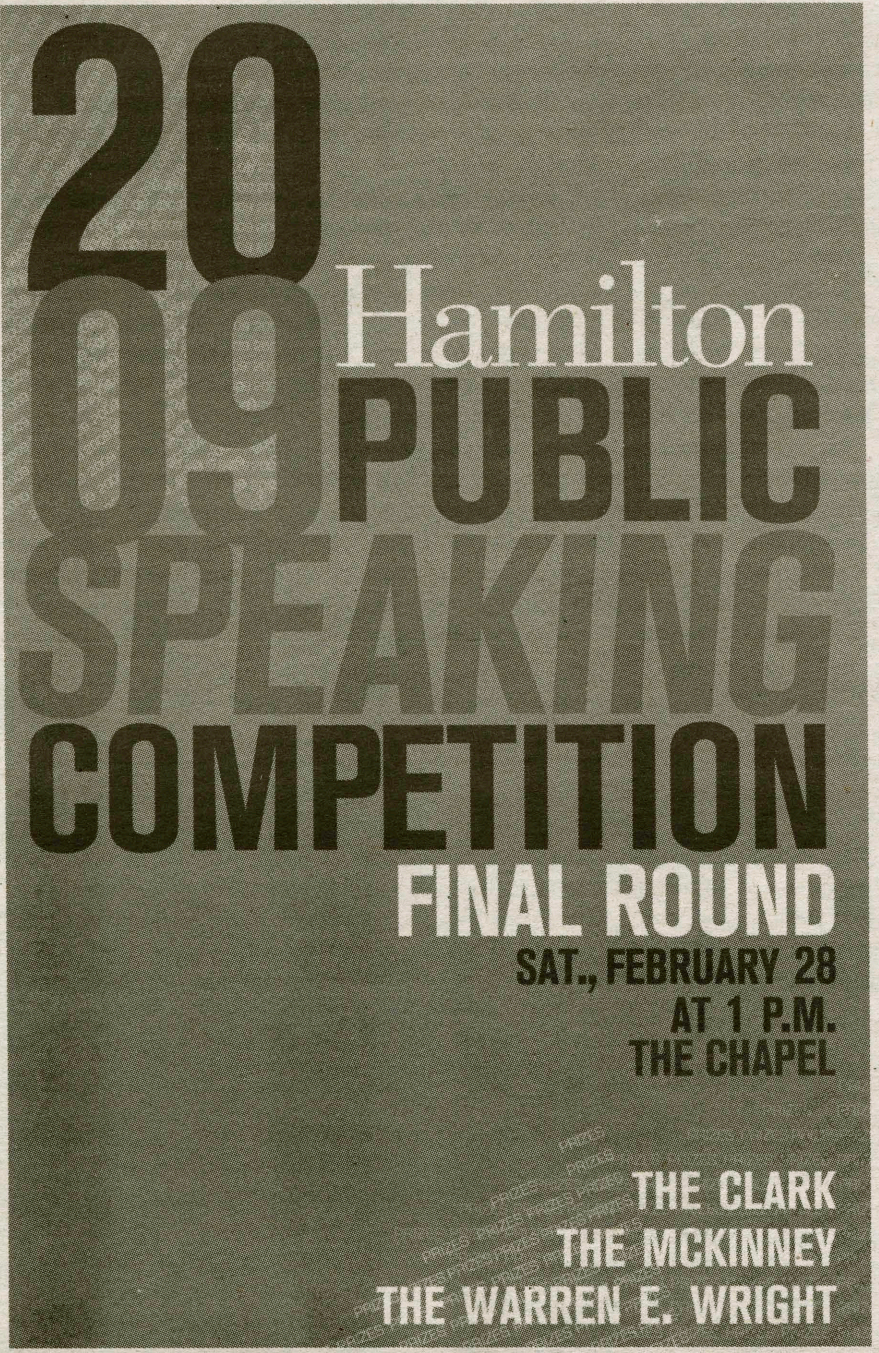
SiteManager, which handles the content for the main Hamilton site and is built upon ColdFusion, hinders the ability for student coding.

As things got more out of control, ITS and Student Assembly decided to stop supporting the technologies that these interactive student sites were built on, due to issues such as hacking. And so, in 2007, when *The Spectator*'s own site stopped working (it was built on MYSQL and ColdFusion and nobody had known how to update it after several students graduated), and *The Spectator* simply stopped publishing online. Eventually, working with Web Services and C&D, a new site was built in SiteManager, though with fewer features than the previous site (before it had broken).

When the *Continental* launched, it decided to simply skip Hamilton's site altogether and use Google's Blogger service to put content online.

Things were in limbo - ITS couldn't support the dynamic student sites any longer because of the resources they drained and trouble they created, but student organizations had nowhere to turn to get significant web hosting off of Hamilton's campus.

It seems as if an end is in sight. As Web Services takes the next few months to revamp SiteManager, it will open up new possibilities for students and student activities alike on Hamilton's own site. Meanwhile, organizations wishing to do more than what SiteManager can provide are finally starting to get web hosting off campus (as was done with the wildly successful Humans vs. Zombies). As the Hamilton technology stack grows, the web's stack grows even faster, and with the atmosphere of innovation being promoted by ITS and organizations diverting off on parallel tracks, it seems Hamilton and student organizations will finally get a web presence as dynamic as its students.



Crowd at Phylum Feast Enjoys Diverse Dishes

PHOTO BY ERNEST WILLIAMS

Students sample the sometimes obscure offerings at the Phylum Feast.

from Here, page 16

for isolating the mechanism of evolution and writing the book *On the Origin of Species*. Williams said the tasting was designed "to celebrate the unity of life and its diversity of forms." Other forms of life being tasted included fried squid, corn, kelp, pine nuts, nori, mushroom, calamari, oyster, and sardine.

As another part of the Darwin Day celebrations at Hamilton, the PBS special *Darwin's Dangerous Idea* was shown in the Kennedy Auditorium to an enthusiastic audience of approximately twenty students and faculty. Discussion followed the film, with Gapp, Williams, and Edward B. Graves Professor of History Alfred Kelly providing insight on Darwin's continued impact on modern science and the historical environment in which he lived. Although ideas concerning evolution had been around long before Darwin (Darwin's own grandfather wrote a book on the subject) it was Charles Darwin's isolation of the concept of sexually-based natural selection that set the stage for many of the modern conceptual leaps of biology.

SPORTS

Track Finds Love, Third Place in Liberty League

by James Russell '09 and Scott Bickard '11
Sports Writers

If you've been following the Hamilton women and men's track teams this season, you know they score a majority of their points in the field events. "Oh, and Peter Kosgei," Cam Gaylord '09 reminds us. With only four teams competing, the Liberty League Championship at St. Lawrence this weekend became a unique opportunity for the running and relay events to get some Valentine's Day's Applewagon-love.

Like the Sunday morning waffle machine at Commons, the Distance Medley Relay began the morning strong. The relay unit of Peter Woodruff '09 (1200 meters in 3:16) James Grebey '12 (400 meters in 54 seconds) Gaylord (800 meters in 2:03) and Devon Lynch '11 (1600 meters in 4:37) ran like, as dog-lover Woodruff says, "a Labrador," as their four sets of strong legs carried them to a 3rd place finish past Union. Lynch's personal best 1600-meter anchor run held off a Union runner with a healthy kick.

"It's fitting Boy Wonder would show this much heart on Valentine's Day," Dan Bruzzese '12 said. The solid times all around became even more important in light of Kosgei's multiple proclamations that he would like to run the mile leg at States. Coach Hull has been traditionally quiet on what the lineup will be for states, so expect a dogfight for the remaining spots.

While the fellas were running their DMR, "Tigar" Ductan '09 experienced some unusual drama in the triple jump. With one jump remaining, Ductan was in danger of losing his first meet all year. Amidst a thunderous slow clap from his teammates, Tigar sprung 13.9 meters (.5 meters longer than last week) for a clutch win.

Senior captain Akilah Bond's triple jump went a little smoother than Ductan's with her 11.01-meter first place jump. In a small meet where athletes can pick up points in unfamiliar events, Coach "Mrs. Coach" Hull strategically decided to also use Danica Wuelfing '10 (9.96 meters for fourth place) and Rebecca Yaguda'09 (9.66 meters for sixth place) in the triple. Lauren Peters-Collaer'11 continued her success at the high jump, as she cashed in a season best matching height of four feet, 11 inches for a third place finish. In the thrower's pit, Josh Orndorff '11 snagged some needed points with fourth place in the shot put and third place in the weight throw.

"Gwenevive" Flanders '09 was given a tall order by Mrs. Coach: the mile/5K double-cheeseburger-hold-some-energy-back-in-the-mile-and-and-sprinkle-some-extra-on-the-5k, please. Only someone running with Flanders' senior edge would even be considered for such a double. The results: third place mile and fifth place 5K. Medium to well done, Gen.

Speaking of senior edge, Keith Gross'09 ran a best time of 4:31 in the mile to grab sixth place and some much needed points. Peter Kosgei also ran the mile, but wasn't looking to set any records. He hung by the lead pack until using an easy sprint to take the mile win in 4:22 (just a jog for Peter). Kosgei took a similar approach in the 800-meter race (first place, 1:57). He went out a little harder in his split (49.7 seconds) of the 400-meter relay.

Junior big Bill Reid's 5k-performance was one of the biggest of the day. His goal of breaking 16 minutes was easily accomplished in 15:45 (sixth place). It's as if Bill has come across some great running discovery this track season. With some more "lab time," he should continue to further his research on faster times.

Sophomore Brooke Rayder's 9.57 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles left her just out of scoring position in seventh place. If Brooke can improve on her starts, she has the potential to put herself in scoring situations at future meets. Likewise, Liz Wahl '10 also cites her starts as a weakness. Luckily, Liz also possesses "lukehot" top speed, which she used for a second place finish in the 55-meter dash and first in the 200 meters. In the men's 55 meters, freshman Ryan Cray ran a personal best time of 6.99 seconds.

Without the great depth of schools like St. Lawrence and Rochester Polytechnic Institute, Hamilton was forced to compete for third place against Union. Mr. Coach cyberscored a Union victory before the meet making many runners nervous. However, key fifth and sixth place finishes, as well as a great final 400-meter relay, helped both women and men's teams secure third place.

Kosgei Watch: Distance runner Peter Kosgei sacrificed qualifying for nationals for the betterment of the team. Look for the Cornell meet and upcoming outdoor season for strong performances, marking the beginning of his quest for track dominance.

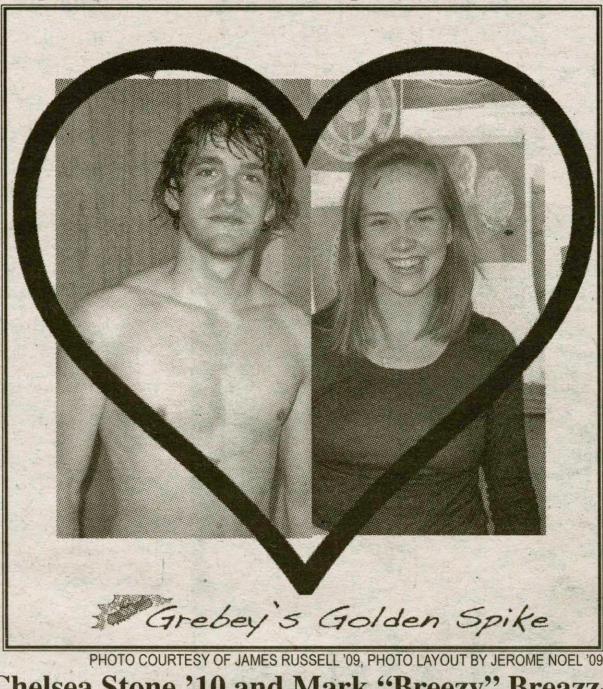


PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES RUSSELL '09, PHOTO LAYOUT BY JEROME NOEL '09

Chelsea Stone '10 and Mark "Breezy" Breazzano '10: A match made in golden spike heaven.

Golden Spike Award Winners

Men's Golden Spike Winner: Mark Breazzano'10- "Breezy" has been battling injuries all season. His comeback performance can be attributed to the hard work and patience he has shown all season. If he can "keep the hair out of his eyes," he can become a stone-cold contributor to the 400-meter relay team.

Women's Golden Spike Winner: Chelsea Stone'10- Chelsea has come a long way from China's polluted air to greatly improve her running. She used her experience to find her own pace until outkicking a Union rider in her 1200-meter Distance Medley Relay section to secure much needed points in defeating Union.

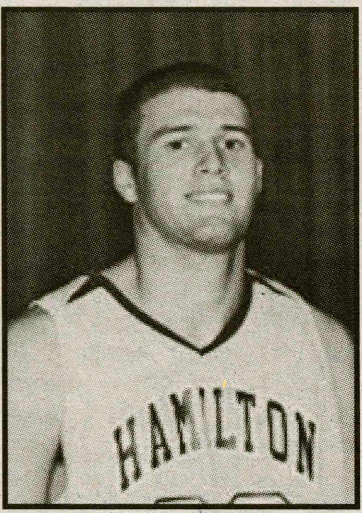
Men's Basketball Team Falls to St. Lawrence University

by Marc Pitarresi '10
Sports Writer

Following an impressive 76-62 victory over Clarkson University the night before, the men's basketball team took the court at Bundy Scott Field House with a chance to control its own fate. A win against Liberty League foe St. Lawrence would all but ensure that the Continentals would play host to this year's Liberty League Tournament.

Emotions ran high early on as seniors Harlee Wood '09 and Kyle Dumas '09 were honored prior to tip-off. The contest lived up to its billing in the early going, with the Continentals jumping out to a 12-6 lead, thanks largely to Wood and Lance Wilson '11. St. Lawrence, however, was able to mount some offense of their own, going on a 15-4 run midway through the first half. This cycle of ebb and flow continued for the remainder of the first half, with the Saints leading 31-23 with 4:04 remaining. The Continentals were able to rally, however and cut the point deficit to 33-31 at the break.

The dogfight continued early on in the second half, with the Continentals battling back to tie the game at 40-40, and 42-42 (for the game's sixth and seventh ties, respectively).



WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

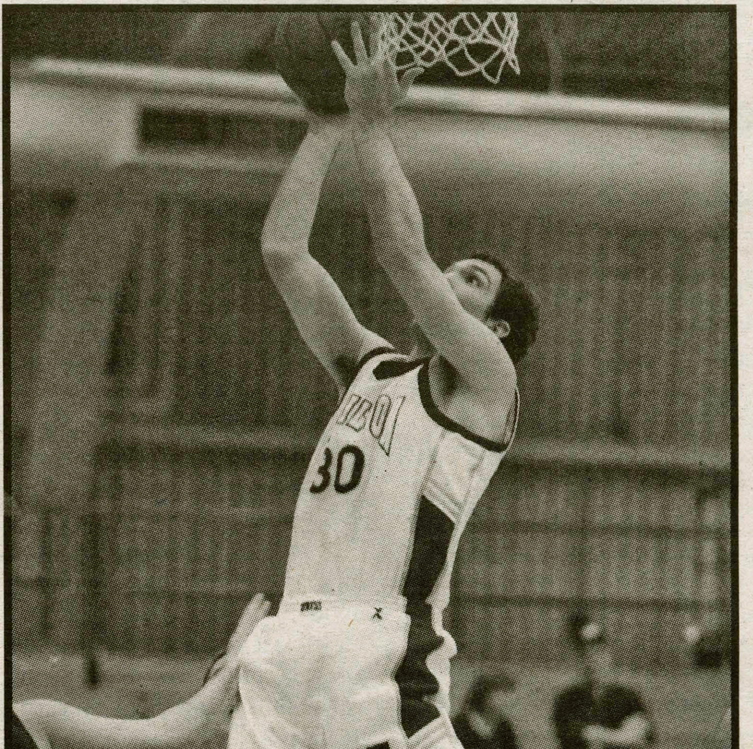
Patrick Sullivan '12 scored 20 points against St. Lawrence.

Eventually, however, the Continentals could no longer keep pace with Saints, who threw it into overdrive on both ends of the court, scoring the next six points of the contest and making 10-11 free throws to ice the game.

Patrick Sullivan '12 scored a season-high 20 points in addition to pulling down seven total rebounds. Wood and John Ciriello'11 also snagged seven rebounds apiece, with Wood scoring eight points and Ciriello adding seven. Jay Simpson '10 also added 16 points.

The Continentals were uncharacteristically poor from beyond the arc, going a dismal 2-20, with the usually sharp-shooting Ephraim McDowell '12 unable to find the mark. Despite the combined efforts of Sullivan, Wood, and Ciriello, the Continentals were also out-rebounded 45-33.

While the loss may be a bitter pill to swallow, the Continentals have little time to dwell on the past. They will play host to Hobart College on Tuesday, February 17, the team's final home game of the regular season, followed by road games at Skidmore on February 20, and at Union on February 21. Regardless of the outcome of the final three games, the Continentals have already secured the number two seed in the Liberty League Tournament, meaning that another meeting with St. Lawrence may not be too far off.



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Six-foot-four Cole Petrulis '12, a team forward, soars for a lay-up.

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY Volume XLIX Number 17

SPECTATOR SPORTS

February 19, 2009

Hockey Team Attempts to Take Momentum into Playoffs

by Daniel Hagemeier '12
Sports Editor

22 games into the season, and with playoff qualifications in hand, the men's ice hockey team is now preparing for the last two regular season matches. The Continentals will play at home against Williams and Middlebury this upcoming Friday and Saturday, respectively. Captain Kyle Roulston '09, who is one of four seniors on the team, describes the motivation for finishing strong as "relatively high." He states that "for us seniors it is our last chance to wear the home jerseys. It's the end of a chapter of our lives, and it is quite special for us." Fellow captain Jared Leslie '09 sees it the same way.

The team currently holds a 7-10 NESCAC record, with an overall balance of 8-13-1. Out of their last six games, the team could win only two. They lost 2-5 to Connecticut College while winning 3-2 at Tufts. Chris Lorenc '10 scored twice against Connecticut while Harry Biggs '10 contributed two goals to the win against Tufts. Jerome Wallace '10 also scored. In the next game, Normand Bazin's team lost 2-3 in overtime against Bowdoin College after goals from Wallace and Lorenc. One day later, the team had more luck and won 3-1 against Colby. Tom Chiappetta '11, Joe Buicko '11 and Lorenc each scored. In the last two games, the Continentals lost twice, 3-5 at New England College and 2-4 at St. Anselm.

The games featured two more goals from Lorenc and Chiappetta, as well as scores from Kevin Osborne '09, Bryan Kelly '12 and BJ Lalonde '12. Coach Bazin admitted that "it has certainly been frustrating at times" to lose these games.

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Ex-Coach Phil Grady observes from the bench during a game.

He added, however, that "we have to realize we've qualified for the playoffs for the first time in three season."

"The last few games have been a learning experience teaching us the importance of coming ready to play each and every shift," explained Leslie.

"We have had good periods and bad periods, and the essential aspect of playing college hockey is that you learn from your mistakes and adjust."

The team's goal for the last two games is now to finish strong and to take momentum with them into the postseason.

"Our goal is to finish as high up in the standings as possible to be the highest seed possible when entering the playoffs," says Roulston.

His coach agreed, adding, "We want to play playoff level hockey this upcoming weekend." Accordingly, the team is practicing hard at the moment.

"We're pretty competitive during practices. We know that there is a good chance that we could play either of these two teams in the playoffs so we are pretty excited and spirits are high," says Roulston.

The team will try to make Bazin's premier season at Hamilton as successful as possible.

An additional motivation comes in the form of the commemoration of former coach Phil Grady. He retired last season after coaching the Continentals for 24 seasons, finishing with 304 wins during his career at Hamilton. The number makes him only the 17th coach in Division III hockey history to reach this milestone. Asked about the influence of this event on the team's spirit, captain Roulston stated:

"There will be many alums here when we are commemorating Coach Grady for the hard work and time he has put in, and it will be nice to put on a show for the guys who have devoted so much time and effort to the Hamilton hockey program. And also, the crowd will give us the edge."

All this should be motivation enough for the Continentals to finish the season strong and start the playoffs with great confidence.

Squash Teams Finish Season with Strong Outlook for 2009

by Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

With 22 season matches, large university competitors, and a difficult training schedule, the men and women's squash teams are easily the unsung heroes of Hamilton athletics. Feb. 27 marks the end of the season, and although recent tough losses have been discouraging, the players have improved greatly and worked hard against nationally ranked teams.

On Friday, Feb. 13, the women's team traveled to Harvard University in Cambridge, MA to play Dartmouth, Bates and George Washington University, ranked nationally at 10th, 14th and 16th place respectively. Hamilton was ranked number 15 at the beginning of the tournament. Although the team returned with three losses, team captain Madeline Sullivan '09 racked up two wins against Dartmouth and George Washington.

Sullivan, a four-year member of the team, thanks her team for their dedication and strength despite struggles with injury and illness. Due to sickness, the team was short of two players during their match at Harvard.

"I am very happy with the team's performance. We had to overcome a lot of obstacles, but we carried on and fought against the odds. I'm also proud of the team's commitment to sportsmanship. The team dynamic was great this year and I really think that helped us throughout the season to be victorious in matches that were very close," Sullivan said.

Although the team lost top-ranked players Betsy McDermott '08 and Natalie Schwerin'08 last season, Sullivan has noticed consistent improvement in her four years as a member of the team.

"In the 2005-2006 season, the women's squash team competed in the Walker Cup (the C division of teams ranked 17-22) and at the Howe Cup (the College Squash Association national tournament) and were seeded 22nd in the tournament. At the tournament the Continentals ended up finishing 21st in the nation. Since then the team has competed in the Kurtz Cup (the B division of teams ranked 9-16). "In my four years of playing on the team we went from finishing 21st to finishing 16th in the nation- a huge jump," she explained.

The women focused on both technique and endurance in practices, explained standout Jane Hannon '11.

"We tried to mix it up a lot in practice, so we focused on something different every day. A lot of the time we would work on length to the back of the courts, with hopes of being able to drive an opponent behind us in a match and control and hopefully win the point. We ended many practices doing cardio workouts to help with endurance in games," Hannon shared.

The men's team, with a current 9-10-0 record, has also faced some difficult competition. The team faced off against powerhouse schools like Stanford, Northeastern, Navy and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Led by captains Sander Doucette '09 and John Dewitt '09, the men pulled off big wins in the NESCAC finals over winter break. The team notched victories against Connecticut College with an 8-1 win and versus Middlebury with a 6-3 finish.

With young teams and the leadership of seasoned coach Jamie King, the men and women's squash teams are poised for a successful 2009-2010 season and advancement in the national ranks.

Athlete of the Week: Sydney Fasulo '09

by Abby Perer '09
Sports Writer

Email Abby Perer '09 (aperer) with your suggestions for Athlete of the Week!

- **Age:** 21
- **Hometown:** Lancaster, PA
- **Sport:** Basketball
- **Position:** Forward
- **Years Playing:** 10
- **Claim to Fame:** Sydney had great performances in both games last weekend. Against Clarkson she had 14 points, shooting six for seven from the floor. She also had five rebounds and four assists. Against St. Lawrence she put up 15 points, pulled down 10 rebounds, and handed out four assists. It's not hard to see why Fasulo ranks fifth place on Hamilton's all-time rebounds list and fourth place on Hamilton's all-time scoring list.
- **Proudest Athletic Moment:** Beating St. Lawrence on their home floor to win the Liberty League and advance to the second round of the NCAA Division III National Tournament.
- **Most Embarrassing Athletic Moment:** As a soccer goalie in middle school, Fasulo once was megged (the opponent kicked the ball between Fasulo's legs and went on to score the goal) when trying to close out on a fast break.

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Sydney Fasulo '09

- **Favorite Pro Athlete:** Shaq
- **Favorite Sports Movie:** *Love and Basketball*
- **Hobby:** Playing with lab rats
- **Next Game:** Friday, Feb. 20 at Skidmore at 6 p.m.